

FOREIGN SCENES

AND

TRAVELLING RECREATIONS.

ENTERED IN STATIONERS' HALL.

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FOREIGN SCENES
AND
TRAVELLING RECREATIONS.

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OF THE HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE,
AND AUTHOR OF SKETCHES OF UPPER CANADA,

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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LIFE AT SEA.



LIFE AT SEA.

READER, were you ever at the Jerusalem or at the Carolina Coffeehouse? If not, you probably never have made a voyage from London to the East or West Indies, or hired an apartment in any of the three-masted prisons that daily sail for these regions, or enjoyed the prospect of being exposed, during several months, to the miseries of Life at Sea.

The Jerusalem Coffeehouse is the chief rendezvous for the masters of East India trading-vessels, who are persons of great consequence in Cowper's Court, but of none anywhere else. When a stranger gets among them, he sees a considerable number of tolerably well-dressed

men hurrying about with a mercantile air, and every moment hears a repetition of the words—cotton, indigo, rice, insurance, bills, and freight. He is constantly jostled by people who are occupied in seeking for others whom they have engaged to meet on business. A waiter stands in one corner, to inform strangers at what time the different captains will visit the coffee-room, and in what part of the Commercial Road their lodgings are. The walls of the apartment are placarded with hand-bills and printed cards, setting forth when the different ships will sail, and describing their “superior accommodations,” engraved plans of which lay upon the tables and benches for public inspection. One vessel is to leave port positively in six days, another is to be off with all possible despatch, a third has nearly the whole of her cargo on board, and a fourth has still two cabins disengaged, for which immediate application must be made by those who want them. An uninitiated person is completely taken in by all this. He secures a passage in one of the ships, and pays its price

into the hands of the commander, who assures him that they will sail precisely at the time specified in the advertisement. The period arrives, but the vessel remains in dock, and her deceived passenger lingers out weeks, and perhaps months, in daily expectation of her departure. On the other hand, the experienced voyager, after reading the bills at the Jerusalem Coffee-room, goes to the City Canal to look at the ships, and to judge when they will be ready to put to sea. The first he finds under the hands of the caulker, and without a rudder or mainmast; the next has just been hove down, because she has a leak in her bottom; the third is discharging some old ballast, and clearing out her hold; and in the fourth, a carpenter is beginning to build a poop, and to partition off the cabins between decks. He leaves town, and makes a tour on the continent, or takes four or five weeks' shooting in Scotland, and, on his return, finds that some of the ships are only preparing to leave port, and that at least half their accommodations still remain at his disposal.

The time a man spends in awaiting the departure of a vessel is usually one of the most useless and unpleasant periods of his life, even when he has to employ part of it in the necessary preparations for a long voyage. These are all of a disagreeable kind, and tend to remind him of the various sacrifices he is about to make in going to sea. He visits his acquaintances, and regrets that he will soon lose their society. He goes into the country, and, while wandering in the fields, recollects that he will shortly be deprived of the pleasures of exercise and rural scenery. He strolls through the town, and is annoyed at the prospect of being excluded from the enjoyment of the conveniences and amusements which it affords. He enters a coffee-room, and reads the newspapers, and reflects that he will be in total ignorance of what goes on in the world during the whole of his anticipated voyage.

At length the hour of his embarkation arrives, and a messenger comes to announce that a boat is in readiness to convey him on board ship.

He is perhaps at an agreeable party when he receives this unwelcome intelligence, which obliges him to take leave of his friends in the midst of their gaiety. As he hastens to the pier, he hears the wind moaning and the waves dashing ; and while on board the boat, and pitching in a high sea, casts many regretful looks to the shore, and watches the glimmering lights upon it, as they gradually become feeble and indistinct, and anxiously listens to the hum of city-life that is borne towards him at intervals by the breeze. The cheerful fire, the well-furnished apartment, the quiet and spacious bed, the comforts of social life, and the enjoyment of unrestrained locomotion, all of which he has just resigned, contrast themselves with the dreary sea-prospects, the small cabin, the unsteady couch, the seclusion from the world, and the monotonous imprisonment, that await him on board ship. Depressed by these recollections, he embarks in a frame of mind that is but ill adapted to enable him to bear patiently the

accumulated disagreeables that usually characterize the first few days of "Life at Sea."

If a ship is to have many passengers, it seldom happens that they all come on board at the same time ; and therefore those who arrive first have an opportunity of viewing the others as they successively reach the vessel. This is an interesting occupation ; for every one is naturally anxious to see the individuals who are to form his only associates during several weeks or months. Under circumstances of this kind, however, first impressions are more than usually fallacious. Most people, whether male or female, when embarking on a long voyage, look ill, dejected, and unprepossessing ; and the man who forms an estimate of his fellow-passengers from the impressions which their first appearance on deck may produce, will seldom find that they promise to be either interesting or agreeable.

The captain is usually the last to come on board ; and the moment he arrives, the seamen

begin to heave up the anchor. This is the signal for all visitors and leave-taking friends to depart, and the tears, farewells, and embraces, which ensue, are as painful to those among whom they are exchanged as they are depressing to the uninterested passengers that witness them. The promptings of ardent affection often make people defer the moment of separation too long, and till circumstances render it a doubly afflicting one. The adieus that take place, amidst the bustle of getting under weigh, the gaze of strangers; and the anxious feelings generated by the prospect of a long voyage, are of a revolting and unsatisfactory kind. We should never accompany our friends on board the ships or steam-boats which are to convey them away, if we wish to believe that they love us as much as our vanity often makes us suppose they do. The various cares which distract the mind of a traveller, when commencing a long journey, smother affection for the moment, and perhaps make him appear chilly and indifferent to those whom in reality he never will forget. But they are

wounded by his apparent coldness, because they measure his expressions of attachment by what they themselves feel, forgetting that the natural current of *their* emotions is not disturbed or diverted into new channels by the exciting circumstances that are then operating upon *his* mind.

The first few days of a voyage are always particularly disagreeable; for that system of regularity, which is so essential to comfort on board ship, cannot immediately be adopted; and some time usually elapses before the passengers get at all reconciled to their situation, or feel at ease in each other's company. Should fine weather attend the vessel's outset, they will saunter listlessly about the deck, avoiding any particular intercourse, and looking so *ennuyé* and dissatisfied, as to discourage mutual advances, even were they individually inclined to make them. The circumstance of meeting in a stage-coach or coffee-room would bring about a general acquaintance among such people immediately; but the prospect of spending a long period together

within the same walls makes every one distrustful of his neighbour, and fearful of too soon getting on intimate terms with him.

Contrary to the general opinion, I think it is desirable that there should be some tempestuous weather at the commencement of a voyage. In this case, the passengers will doubtless suffer more than they would do were the storm not to occur until they had been some weeks on board ship; but then they have the advantage of at once knowing the worst of the disagreeables they are likely to encounter, and of probably purchasing, by a single severe fit of sea-sickness, an exemption from any future attacks of that formidable malady. To attain this last object, one would be inclined to make almost any sacrifices; for, while the slightest degree of the complaint remains, life is scarcely endurable. The bodily exhaustion and mental depression produced by sea-sickness are indeed quite peculiar and indescribable. In no other morbid state of the system does man appear so utterly brutalized, unenergetic, and despicable; and one who has ex-

perienced the infliction, cannot recall the sensations he had during its continuance, without feelings of humiliation and of self-contempt. This circumstance accounts for the derision and disregard with which a person suffering from sea-sickness is usually treated by the unconcerned spectators. His torments as much exceed those that attend an acute disease, as the sympathy he meets with falls short of what would be accorded to him were he labouring under one.

When tempestuous weather occurs immediately after the vessel has left port, things on board usually wear a very comfortless and depressing aspect. Most of the passengers become too ill to leave their cabins, and the dinner and breakfast tables are deserted and unsocial. The servants, being occupied in attending the females, neglect their other duties, and one finds it difficult to get almost any thing he wants. If he shuts himself up in his cabin, he will be disturbed by the moanings and complaints of his neighbours ; if he remains in the public room,

he will be annoyed by people hurrying about with tumblers of negus and of brandy and water; and should he venture upon deck, he has every chance of receiving a salute from the first sea that strikes the ship. At the same time, the dreariness of the prospect there is sufficient of itself to bring on a fit of low spirits, even without the additional annoyance of being addressed by a succession of pale-faced miserable-looking fellow-passengers, who have crawled up the gangway stairs to learn the state of the weather, and to pester the irritable officer of the watch, by inquiring how long the gale will continue.

However, the return of moderate weather completely alters the state of things; those who have been martyrs to sea-sickness recover their health, spirits, and appetites; the most timid acquire confidence and cheerfulness; the ladies visit the deck, and invent amusements; and the dinner-table is daily encircled by its full complement of guests.

The importance which people on board ship attach to meals would expose them to the

charge of sensuality and epicurism any where else ; but at sea dinner is looked forward to with interest, chiefly because it diversifies the tedium of life felt daily during a voyage, and is an event of greater consequence than any other which can reasonably be expected to occur. The party therefore usually assembles at table with a degree of cheerfulness and self-complacency that would be sufficient to make the meal pass off very agreeably, were not every thing marred by the absurd ceremony that usually prevails on board ships carrying many passengers. People often are disposed to be rather scrupulous about coming into close contact with each other while at sea, and most commanders of vessels endeavour to encourage this feeling, and to promote a chilling reserve among the company, under the false idea, that such a system of manners tends to prevent quarrels, and ensures a proper degree of respect and obedience to themselves. But it has quite a contrary effect, as every one who has been much at sea will testify. When social intercourse con-

sists of nothing but the practice of a set of ceremonials and forms of etiquette, such as shipmasters frequently endeavour to introduce, it is to be supposed that any infringement of them will cause dissension, even among those who are unwillingly submitting to the restrictions which their observance imposes ; and that such infringements must often take place, and the oftener the more numerous and complicated the ceremonials are, can hardly be disputed. Commanders of vessels usually have a great inclination to constitute themselves masters of ceremonies and arbiters of disputes among their passengers, but they seldom are qualified for duties of the kind, which, on board ship particularly, are of a very delicate nature, and require, for their successful fulfilment, an acuteness of perception and a knowledge of the world that seafaring men rarely possess.

To captains of East-Indiamen the above charge is particularly applicable. The quarrellings and dissensions which take place on board their ships generally are the consequences of

their unnecessary and troublesome interference with their passengers, and of the haughty deportment which they assume towards them. The tyranny of these men is always too submissively borne by the individuals who are unfortunate enough to be exposed to it ; for an idea prevails generally, that strict discipline and unresisting subordination ought to go hand in hand during a voyage to India. That a degree of each is necessary to the comfort and welfare of all parties concerned cannot be denied ; but both are often carried to such an extremity on board Company's ships as to be absolutely humiliating. Large parties of ladies and gentlemen daily cross the Atlantic in small vessels, the commanders of which neither attempt to establish any system of etiquette on board, nor have the presumption to think themselves qualified to do so ; yet mutual politeness and good-humour almost always prevail among passengers under such circumstances, and a quarrel is scarcely ever heard of. But an Indiaman, when under the charge of a meddling and pre-

suming captain, generally exhibits a scene of jealousy and dissension from the beginning of the voyage to its termination. That he is the cause of all this cannot be doubted. The people who sail for the East are usually superior in manners and intelligence to those that go to the Western continent and its islands ; and we may therefore suppose, that they would live together in as great harmony and social enjoyment as the latter do, were they at liberty to adopt that style of intercourse which they mutually found to be most convenient and agreeable. But they seldom enjoy this privilege, and a voyage to India consequently is regarded, even by those who love a sea-life, as a period of penance and a season of humiliation, which they would gladly abridge or avoid altogether.

In large ships an abundant and even elegant table is usually kept ; but its comforts are not available, except during moderate weather. When there is a high sea, meals become an annoyance rather than a pleasure ; for all the plans that have yet been invented to obviate the in-

convenience of the rolling of a vessel prove of little actual utility. A party at dinner, in a gale of wind, is a scene as illustrative of the miseries of a sea-life as any that can be chosen. On such occasions, the more experienced passengers know when the ship is on the point of making a violent lurch, and prepare for it accordingly ; but the novices are usually taken unawares, and their plates, knives, forks, glasses, chairs, and own persons perhaps, suddenly hurled to the lee-side of the cabin. However, those who retain their places are probably in a situation not less ludicrous. A delicate young lady, just recovered from sea-sickness, will have a large ham precipitated into her lap ; all the wine-bottles on the table may collect around a determined water-drinker ; the epicure of the party may lose sight of his plate of dainties, and find a dish of boiled rice in its place ; an old Indian may have a quantity of grilled liver forced upon him, and a roast pig will perhaps be seen going full speed towards a man who detests pork. When quietness is restored, and when every

one has extricated himself from his difficulties, a great deal of merriment may probably ensue ; but the accident, if two or three times repeated, ceases to be an entertaining one, and eventually causes irritation among the sufferers, instead of putting them into good-humour. People cannot converse freely, or sit at ease, when in momentary expectation of being thrown from the chairs, or scalded with soup ; and, on board ship, they are so often exposed to accidents of this kind, that they soon lose the spirit of sociality, and become more dull, reserved, and taciturn, every time they meet at table.

The spirits of people at sea, however good at first, soon begin to flag, and almost every one eventually sinks into a state of languor and apathy, which, rendering his mind and body alike averse to occupation and active employment, make him as tiresome to himself as he is unentertaining to others. On board ship all intellectual operations are suspended, and a voyage forms a complete blank in human existence. Every thinking man finds the progress of his

ideas stop the moment he loses sight of the shore, and, after traversing some thousand miles of ocean, experiences the melancholy conviction, that he is neither wiser, better, nor more enlightened, than he was when he first entered the vessel. There is no instance of any intellectual triumph ever having been achieved at sea. It is not on record, that any philosopher ever enlarged the bounds of science by a splendid discovery,—that any great writer ever planned or executed an immortal work,—that any artist ever produced a grand design, or that any individual ever made one brilliant contribution to the knowledge or enjoyment of mankind,—while on board ship and on a voyage. We all know that Cervantes wrote his best works in prison, that Savage and Otway composed fine poetry when exposed to hunger, fatigue, and the inclemencies of the weather, and that men of genius often have distinguished themselves, in their different departments, when under the influence of the most discouraging and unfavourable circumstances ; but no one

will believe that the persons above-mentioned could have brought their powers of mind so effectually into use, had they been at sea, and even wholly exempted from the distractions which they respectively had to contend with on shore. Any one who doubts that intellectual incapacity always accompanies a sea-life, need only look to the British navy ; among the multitudes who belong to it some genius must surely exist,—but, if it does, it is totally inactive and inefficient. Nautical men have perhaps seldomer exhibited talent than any other class of people whatever ; and their talent, when they have shewn any, has always been of a professional and artificial kind, such as their peculiar mode of life, and the dangers, difficulties, and responsibilities, connected with it, would force into existence without the aid of superior intellectual powers.

The fact appears to be, that the inconveniences and privations to which one is exposed while at sea, are sufficient to impede and even prevent the full exercise of the faculties in all

persons not naturally of strong frames and coarse perceptions. The young men that enter the navy of their own accord are usually stout-bodied, boisterous, and unreflecting beings, fond of rude pleasures, and destitute of any sensitiveness of constitution ; and I have observed, that all landsmen, who profess to like a sea-life, are essentially of the same character.

The languor and depression usually felt on board ship little dispose the passengers to enjoy the limited amusements that are attainable there ; and they loiter away their time in a manner that would be insupportable under any other circumstances. Strolling listlessly about the decks, calculating the probable length of the voyage, watching the appearance of birds and fishes, marking the progress of the vessel through the billows, studying the weather, and wishing for the hour of dinner, form the chief occupations of people at sea. Reading, except it be of the lightest kind, requires a continuity of attention which one seldom is able to bestow ; but chess, backgammon, cards, and dancing, form

very agreeable pastimes : music, however, is better than all of them, particularly during calm moonlight nights, when it may be performed and listened to under every possible advantage. On board ship, the evening is generally the time when one feels most disposed for recreation and most capable of enjoying it. The occupations of the day not having been sufficiently active to produce fatigue, the spirits are unimpaired, and the grateful transition from sunshine to darkness affords a slight stimulus to the mind, which is all that is wanted to put to flight ennui and lassitude, alike at sea and everywhere else.

Dull and monotonous as life on board ship is, it still elicits or gives birth to peculiarities of character, which the individuals exhibiting them probably would not acquire under any other circumstances, and which, being often brought into close contact and collision with their opposites, appear in the broadest light possible, and furnish much amusement to the unconcerned observer. A few weeks at sea seldom fail to

develop the habits of thought and propensities of all the passengers, and to determine the parts which they are to play during the voyage. One of the most common and important of these is that of the alarmist. Persons of this class are to be met with at sea even oftener than on shore ; for the former situation affords fine scope for those gloomy anticipations and imaginary causes of anxiety which they love to indulge in themselves, and to infuse into the minds of those around them. On board ship, the alarmist usually wears a grave, dubious look, and has a wandering and unsettled eye. His whole attention is directed to the state of the weather, the variations of the wind, the rising and falling of the barometer, and the heaving of the log. He thinks more about the ship than its commander does, and suffers more fatigue ; for the frequency and duration of his watches on deck are regulated by his fears, the succession of which is as uninterrupted as their influence is unremitting. When his fellow-passengers seem gay and unconcerned, he regards them with a look of pity,

such as is due to people standing unconsciously on the verge of destruction ; and his manner of bidding them good night is so solemn, that one would suppose he never expected again to meet them on this side of the grave. His fears and anxieties are continually changing their object ; for as soon as he discovers the fallacy of one source of uneasiness, he employs his imagination in conjuring up another. He will first perhaps be haunted with the idea that the ship leaks, and is in a sinking state ; and this impression will make him sound the bell twice a day, and narrowly watch the discharge of water every time the pumps are worked ; while he, at the same time, drops hints about vessels foundering at sea, and mutters a prayer that all on board may reach their place of destination in safety. Having dismissed the fear of there being too much salt water in the ship, he next harasses himself and others with the suspicion that there is too little fresh on board. He measures his daily supply, to ascertain if the customary allowance has been diminished, and every glassful he

drinks excites the idea of a scarcity, and makes him experience an imaginary thirst far more intolerable than the real one he is endeavouring to assuage. Should he obtain proof that there is abundance of fresh water on board, his fertile and inquiring mind will perhaps begin to suspect that the variation of the compass far exceeds what it usually is supposed to be, and that the ship is quite out of her due course, and will soon be betrayed into unknown and unnavigable parts of the ocean. He now stands sentry beside the binnacle all day; and at night, frequently steals from his cabin with a lantern in his hand, and comes upon deck to watch the aberrations of the needle, and to calculate the amount and power of that magnetic attraction which, he thinks, is rapidly drawing the unfortunate vessel into the vortex of destruction.

However, the amusement one may derive from watching the fancies of the alarmist, does not compensate for the anxiety and uneasiness which he diffuses among the timid and inexperienced part of his fellow-passengers, and which

are but imperfectly alleviated even by the representations of a person of a very opposite character, who may after be found on board the same ship. The one employs himself in detecting, and pointing out to others the dangers and causes of anxiety connected with their situation, and his opposite tells the persons in jeopardy, that they should not be in the least affected by the surrounding perils, and that they ought to feel equally safe, happy, and comfortable, under all circumstances. His leading axiom is, that a man evinces great weakness of mind when he feels dissatisfied with the things about him, and still greater when he expresses this dissatisfaction. Like the North American Indians, he regards an insensibility to hardships, privations, and personal inconveniences, as a mark of elevation of character. His coarseness of mind and hardness of constitution prevent him from being affected by occurrences which annoy and discompose others; and while he owes this exemption to innate stupidity and haziness of perception, he triumphantly attributes it to strength

of mind and superiority of intellect ; and if you tell him that you feel uneasy, impatient, or uncomfortable, he assumes a look of dignified pity, declares that the things you complain of do not at all distress him, and shews that he thinks you the fool which, in reality, he himself is. Should any of his fellow-passengers confess themselves annoyed by the rolling of the vessel, the badness of its accommodations, the violence of the wind, or the dangers of a voyage, he will express his contempt of the childishness that dictates such complaints, bid them rejoice that things are no worse, and assert, with a look of superiority and conclusiveness, that he feels equally happy whether at sea or on shore, or in a tempest or in a calm. He is continually watching an opportunity of making animadversions of the kind, and glories in possessing that mental and personal unsusceptibility which is the distinguishing attribute of all the lowest orders of animated beings, but which makes him assume the right of censuring others who are so happy as to be deficient in it, and of bestowing upon them

that pity and commiseration that properly belong to his own leaden dulness and tormenting stupidity.

The unchanging nature of the scenery at sea adds in no small degree to the dulness of a voyage. The aspects of the sky and ocean are so little susceptible of variety, that all their modifications may be exhibited in the course of one day; and he who has sailed during a calm, a gale, and a moderate breeze, and has seen the sun rise and set, has witnessed almost all the displays of external nature that will ever present themselves to his view while on board ship.

There is no state of the weather at sea more unpleasant than a calm. The depression of spirits and annoying idea of detention produced by it, are not relieved by any new or enlivening appearances in external nature; for at such times, fishes, birds, and clouds, partake of the inactivity of their respective elements, the first seldom making themselves visible, and the other two remaining in a state of quiescence. A per-

fect calm rarely occurs, except between the tropics, and there it sometimes continues several weeks, during which not a breath of wind, nor a ripple on the sea, is ever perceptible. The heat becomes intense, and the reflection of the sun from the water is so dazzling, that one can hardly go upon deck, except at night. This state of things proves trying to the patience of even the sailors, but much more so to that of the passengers, who, perhaps unaccustomed to a ship, crowded within narrow accommodations, anxious for the termination of the voyage, and destitute of amusement, sink into despondency, or endeavour to relieve their ennui by quarrelling with one another. They all feel the irksomeness of their situation increased by the obtruding reflection, that human interference and exertion can be of no avail in extricating them from it, and that they must remain inactive till the capricious winds deign to revisit the spot on which the vessel is becalmed.

At sea people usually are in best spirits when the wind is favourable, and when the ship

moves pretty rapidly through the water. Indeed, it appears, that, under almost any circumstances, the mere act of progressing excites the animal activity and exhilarates the mind. Dr Johnson says, that life affords few pleasures greater than that of being whirled along in a post-chaise ; and what horseman has not felt the inspiring influence of a rapid gallop ? The sensation of dashing through the billows at the rate of ten or eleven miles an hour is one which is very delightful, and which irresistibly disposes people to be in good humour with each other. At such times every thing has an animated appearance. The sea becomes brilliantly blue, and swells and wreaths the crests of its billows into a thousand different shapes ; while vast semicircles of foam, dazzling white, diverge from the bows of the vessel in rapid succession, and a long train of diminishing brightness, like a milky-way, undulates in the course of her wake as far as the eye can reach. Birds flutter round her stern, and keep pace with her with unremitting wing ; porpoises perhaps gambol on every

side, sometimes springing out of the water, sometimes rapidly skimming along its surface, and sometimes darting downwards, and emitting a flash of light at the moment they disappear. The wind whistles gaily among the shrouds, the seamen hurry about aloft, and the ample distended sails swell their bosoms in the sunshine, and triumphantly receive those breezes which give the ship a temporary sovereignty over the surrounding ocean.

The passengers now assemble on deck in high spirits ; those unhappy sufferers, who have been confined to bed for weeks, are brought up the gangway in arm-chairs. The captain congratulates them upon the favourable weather ; the helmsman looks knowingly, and steers with judgment ; and the officer of the watch, on heaving the log, throws it from him with an air of complacency and satisfaction, and having drawn in the line, calls out, “ Eleven and a half, sir.” “ Very well,” returns the captain, “ keep her at that.” The party then descend to the dinner-table, the wine circulates freely, calcula-

tions are made when the ship will reach her destination, and bets taken upon the question, and the universal gaiety that prevails almost puts one for a little time in good humour with "Life at Sea."

Sunrise, sunset, and moonlight, constitute some of the most interesting modifications of ocean-scenery. The first, however, seldom displays much beauty or variety ; for, at a distance from land, the great luminary in general emerges upon an unclouded horizon, and, therefore, nothing but a glare of light attends his appearance on the brow of the morning. With sunset it is quite the reverse. In almost every dissimilar climate, and different sea, the celestial phenomena that accompany the departure of day vary in their character, and assume different aspects. I am far from thinking that sunset, as seen at sea, can ever equal what it is on shore, where mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, and ruins, clad in the glorious investments of evening, and mutually heightening the individual effect of each other, dazzle the eyes and mind of

the beholder, and make the scene excite emotions as numerous and diversified as the objects that compose it. But, in the midst of the ocean, the exhibition has a more abstract kind of magnificence, and, from the absence of all terrestrial features and associations, more ideality.

Perhaps the finest sunsets of any take place in the West India seas during the rainy season. In the morning, the horizon is encircled by a range of clouds, the masses of which gradually increase in magnitude till noon. They then become motionless and unchanging, and float indolently in the overpowering fervour of day; but when the sun has declined considerably, new masses start up from the place at which he will set, as if to prepare for his reception. After he sinks behind them, he remains for a little time completely shrouded; but the obscuring volumes are at length divided by a chasm, through which a magnificent burst of splendour flashes forth with startling rapidity. Every flake now rolls away from before him, and his orb, dilated into glorious magnitude, pouring

floods of golden light, and sublimely curtained with clouds of the most dazzling tints, throws a parting smile upon the ocean, whose mirrored bosom placidly receives the radiant gift, and reflects back the whole celestial pageantry with a chaste and tempering mellowness. But as the moment of dipping approaches, the sun's glare falls unequally upon the gigantic clouds, and lights them with gorgeous dyes on one side, while they remain black, portentous, and pregnant with thunder on the other, and seem to await, with lurid impatience, the time when their controlling luminary will disappear, and leave them to burst into tempest, and discharge their pent-up wrath upon the bosom of night ; at last he sinks below the horizon, and darkness almost instantaneously involves both ocean and sky.

Sunset, as seen in the Southern Atlantic, has a more sober magnificence than in the West India seas. The clouds are equally brilliant in colour, but are less fantastically arranged ; the light is nearly as vivid, but has not the tropical glare and fierceness just described ; and the re-

flection upon the sea is quite as beautiful, but not so dazzling and extensive.

The most lovely and impressive sunset I ever witnessed, took place at the mouth of the St Lawrence, where the river is thirty miles wide. I was on board ship, and we lay in the middle of the majestic stream, the surface of which was perfectly calm, and apparently without current. Several vessels had anchored within a mile of our station, and the sound of the voices and rattling of cordage, which occasionally proceeded from them, were the only vibrations that agitated the air. A number of belugas, or white whales, sported silently on the still expanse around us, raising their backs gradually above it, in the form of a snowy crescent, and then gliding downwards with graceful smoothness and elegance. On one side, the dreary coast of Labrador, lightened by the glow of sunset into an appearance of richness and verdure, occupied the horizon, and, on the other, the barren mountains of the American coast were dimly visible. Before us we traced the windings of the St Lawrence,

and saw them studded with islands, and narrowing into more intense beauty, until they were lost amidst the recesses of accumulated hills and forests. The sun was setting serenely on a land of peace,—a land which was calling the children of misery to her bosom, and offering them the laughing joys of ease and plenty. We were in the midst of the most magnificent of nature's works,—these appearing still more magnificent from our having seen nothing but ocean and sky for many preceding weeks. We had just entered the gates of a new world, and it was impossible to view the glorious sunset which illumed its skies, without mingled emotions of awe, gratitude, and exultation.

Sunset in the East Indies is as deficient in grandeur, gloriousness, and impressive magnificence, as is the country in which it takes place. The horizon is usually cloudless, and the sun, even when about to disappear, emits a glare and heat nearly as concentrated and scorching as he does at noonday. He is not encircled with orient colours and fanciful forms, nor tempered

by kindly vapours, but descends in all the unadorned and unattractive simplicity that characterizes the face of nature in the eastern tropics.

But where, after all, shall we find sunsets equal to British ones? where such serenely beautiful horizons—such rich and varied dyes—such mellowness of light—such objects to be irradiated by it, and evenings so happily adapted for contemplating them? The mixture of fierceness and gloom in a West India sunset call to mind the coarseness of the people there, and the implacable deadliness of the climate. The milder glories of one in the Southern Atlantic can be enjoyed at sea only where every thing else is unpleasing. The effect of a similar scene in America is injured by the want of objects of antiquity, and of the lofty associations connected with them; and, in India, the tropical glare attending the departure of day, forces us to imprison ourselves while it is taking place, and to remember that we are in exile. A British sunset alone excites no regretful ideas; its placid beauty is heightened by that of the scenery

which it embellishes, while the quiet imagery of its horizon, and the softness of the succeeding twilight, are characteristic of the undisturbed peace and domestic happiness that have their dwelling-place in that land upon which the shadows of night always steal softly and unobtrusively.

At sea, moonlight has no peculiarity except extreme softness. It is the most delightful season on board ship, particularly during a calm, where the stillness and repose that prevail amount almost to solemnity. At these times, I have often fancied that I have heard faint, but unaccountable noises coming over the ocean. They resembled human voices, notes of music, and indistinct and irregular percussions. Had they struck my ear in broad day, I would have regarded them as the offspring of imagination: but when they occurred, the surrounding silence was too perfect to admit of my being deceived, and I therefore thought the phenomenon worthy of some attention. Every one knows that distant sounds are heard better at night than dur-

ing the day; and this principle, according to Humboldt's theory, must apply particularly to their transmission over the sea in calm weather. This philosopher says, that on land, between sunrise and sunset, the humming of the insect tribes, the notes of birds, and the rustling of trees, create such incessant vibrations in the air, that any sound of a different character, in travelling forwards, soon loses its intenseness and individuality, and becomes scarcely distinguishable; but that, in a still dark night, when the animal and vegetable worlds are hushed, there being almost no noises to commingle with it or interrupt its progress, it diffuses itself much farther, and is heard more distinctly, than during the day. The total absence of all causes of vibration at sea, in calm weather, must render the atmosphere there a medium infinitely more favourable for the transmission of sound than it is on shore, where perfect silence cannot exist under any circumstances whatever; and it therefore seems probable, that sounds may be conveyed over the ocean to an immense distance. The tones and

voices which I heard might perhaps have proceeded from some vessel twenty or thirty miles off, or probably had their origin in the nearest land, the remoteness of which must have been considerable. How affecting to hear people speak whom we are too far removed from to see, and to hold, as it were, audible communion with those that are separated from us by a wide extent of ocean ! In some situations, a man, while on a voyage, might enjoy unexpected reminiscences of the things he most loved and most regretted having parted with. In the solemn stillness of a moonlight night, he might hear the voice of his friend, or the song of his mistress, and the chords of her harp ; or, perhaps, listen to the roar of a favourite waterfall, or to the organ of some known cathedral. What mysterious awe would such glimmering intimations of the existence of dear and remote objects excite, were he who received them uncertain whether he was ever again to see the individuals of whom they reminded him, or to visit the land which formed their abiding place !

The finest night-scene at sea is during a calm, and when the moon has reached her highest point in the heavens. The ocean below then appears like another and a denser sky, from whose dark edges crowds of stars are constantly emerging and hastening up the firmament, to add their lustre to that of the glorious luminary presiding there. The ship floats without noise, and her wide-extended sails cling idly to the masts, and wave to and fro, like the robes of a gigantic spectre. The surface of the surrounding sea has not a ripple upon it, but at intervals exhibits flashes of bluish light, and is sometimes disturbed by the tumultuous gambols of a shoal of porpoises. The seamen lie stretched upon the deck half asleep, and the steersman rests carelessly upon the spokes of the useless tiller-wheel, and invokes the wind with low and impatient whistlings.

The most common mind can hardly be insensible to the sublime impressions which such a scene is calculated to create. Seamen, notwithstanding their exterior coarseness, are more alive

to the influences of the grand and beautiful in nature, than any other equally uneducated class of people whatever. The wild and uncertain tenor of their lives, and the little intercourse they have with the world, divest them of that plainness, narrowness, and straightforwardness of mind, which belong to the lower orders of men whose occupations fix them to one spot on shore. It opens the way for the reception of feelings and ideas that are of a very imaginative kind; their business is not with their fellow-creatures, but with the elements; their struggles are not with poverty, but with tempests and perils. When on board ship, they live in comparative idleness and independence, and have time to think of other things besides their profession and the means of obtaining a subsistence.

Sailors know nothing of the world; and this is one reason why they are such good sort of people. They are likewise very superstitious and fanciful; and unbigoted superstition always has a humanizing influence upon the lower

orders of society. Seamen are not to be judged of by what they usually appear while on shore ; for they then give way to all sorts of degrading and disgusting excesses. It is when on board ship, and under moderate discipline, that they display their true character. I have had many opportunities of observing sailors, and of conversing with them, and have always thought, that, generally speaking, they possess much better feelings, and much more knowledge and acuteness, than they usually get credit for. People, in most instances, form an estimate of their character from the reports of shipmasters and naval officers, who have an interest in representing and believing them to be universally wicked, unprincipled, and incorrigible, that they may exert their tyranny upon them without incurring the odium of cruelty and injustice. However, I have always heard midshipmen speak favourably and warmly of seamen. They have not the power of using them ill, and are brought so much into contact with them, that they discover their good qualities. But the midshipman, on

attaining the rank of captain, too often forgets his former experience, and endeavours to excite prejudice against a class of people towards whom he once entertained the most kind and benevolent feelings.

Almost all the superstitions of seamen embrace the idea of an overruling Providence ; and though no people in the world are less influenced by religion, in so far as regards the tenor of their lives, they betray a lively confidence in divine protection, and usually solicit it when the hour of danger arrives. They consider themselves peculiarly situated with respect to future destiny, and rewards and punishments, and think they will be less severely dealt with hereafter than other classes of society, on the ground that the hardships and dangers to which their mode of life exposes them are actually equivalent to the torments of purgatory. Their superstitious regard for the small bird called the stormy petrel, arises from their belief that these animals follow ships for the purpose of picking up the souls of the seamen that are lost in tempests,

and carrying them to the bosom of their Creator. I have heard shipmasters seriously entreat their passengers not to kill or annoy these winged servants of Heaven.

The following circumstance, which is strongly illustrative of the reality and power of the superstition now mentioned, was related to me by the son of the individual under whose observation it occurred. He had been with his regiment in the Mediterranean for several years, and was returning to England in a trading vessel. He was the only passenger on board, and, her commander being an agreeable person for his station, they became intimate, and were constantly in each other's company. One beautiful calm evening, when seated in the cabin together, their conversation turned upon the pleasure of revisiting home, and of meeting beloved friends after a long absence from both. The shipmaster pointed to the sun, which was then setting, and said that he hoped soon to see it descend with equal loveliness behind the mountains that encompassed his native valley. He

then spoke with passionate fondness of his young wife and his two children, and remarked, that he had at that moment such a vivid recollection of their features, that they seemed almost tangible. He was interrupted by a stormy petrel entering the cabin, through one of the stern windows. It flew round the apartment three times, and then disappeared. He instantly started up, exclaiming, "All is over with me ! I shall never see my family more !" and burst into tears. His passenger inquired the cause of his agitation, and endeavoured to sooth him, but without avail ; "I have received an intimation of my death, from the bird which has just visited us," said the shipmaster. "None of its species ever approach human beings except for a similar purpose. I shall die three days hence, and it will carry away my soul. No winds, however favourable, can convey us home before the fatal moment arrives." He then requested to be left alone, and after some hours of seclusion, came upon deck with an air of the deepest despondency. The weather continued

delightful, and the vessel made rapid progress in her voyage ; but her commander seemed indifferent to every thing, and daily declined in strength and health, notwithstanding all the reasoning and consoling attentions of his passenger. He employed much of his time in making arrangements relative to his family, and died about the period he had predicted.

I heard the following circumstance from the mate of a merchant ship, who had been third officer of the vessel in which it occurred. They were scudding under a tremendous gale, which had commenced at mid-day. It was evening, and the storm seemed to be increasing every moment. The lurid appearance of the horizon to windward, and the appalling height of the waves, made the captain determine upon laying the ship to till the weather became more favourable. This, however, was more easily proposed than accomplished ; for a vessel, while in the act of coming round, and bringing her head to the wind, is liable to be struck by a sea, and thrown upon her beam-ends. The captain, fearful of this ac-

cident, continued irresolute for some time, but at length, seizing a moment when the surrounding ocean was in a favourable state, he ordered the steersman to put down the helm. The ship obeyed its influence for a few seconds, but a wave then burst upon her broadside, and nearly upset her. Her sails were immediately split by the wind, and she began to drift about at the mercy of the tempest ; all hands were now ordered to go aloft, with the mate at the head of them. On ascending the shrouds, he observed a man busily employed in the maintop, and doing the very thing that he himself had meant to do. He was astonished, knowing that all the ship's crew were on the rigging below him, and called to the mysterious stranger, who made no reply, but continued his work with the utmost activity. The mate hastened toward him, and got near enough to perceive that he wore the dress of a seaman, and had a weather-beaten countenance, shaded by grey hairs ; but he lost sight of the unknown visitant before he had time to observe any thing more. He was now satisfied that no

deception had been practised, for he knew perfectly the faces of all the ship's crew, and likewise their dress and personal appearance. He and his men, having finished their duty, descended to the deck ; however the gale continued with unabated violence, and it became necessary to send two people up to the foretop. When they had nearly gained it, the captain called out to them, asking if they would not require another hand to assist them. " No, no," returned they, " there is one hand here already." " Who is he?" cried the captain. " We don't know yet, for he won't make any answer," was the reply. The mate now related his adventure on the maintop, and proposed that the ship's crew should immediately be mustered. This being done, it was found that all the men were present, except the two that had been ordered abaft: these came down soon afterwards, and said they had encountered a stranger in the foretop, whom they described as an old man, dressed like a sailor, and so active that he had done nearly the whole of their duty, and sud-

denly disappeared, before they could get alongside of him. This unaccountable circumstance filled every one with dread and anxiety, for they supposed that it was connected with the fate of the ship, and portended some fearful event or misfortune; however, they were mistaken. The wind soon subsided, and they made a speedy and prosperous voyage, and never again received any visits from the unknown being who had so mysteriously assisted them in the hour of danger.

The sparkling and luminousness exhibited by the sea at night is sometimes a very beautiful phenomenon. It may be seen in almost any part of the ocean; but is most brilliant near the equator, where a ship, when making much way, appears as if she were encircled by wreaths of fire, and has a long train of vivid light like the tail of a comet behind her. The finest display of the kind I ever beheld took place in the 3d° south latitude. One dark and rather hazy night, about eight o'clock, the sea, within ten yards of both sides of the

vessel, suddenly became studded with a vast profusion of dazzling stars, which varied in colour and magnitude, and continued to vanish and appear again, as if they had been alternately extinguished and rekindled. Some emitted a glowing white light, and others exhibited shades of blue and faint red. We were going about five knots, and the reflection from the ship's wake was so strong, that the poop after-cabins were completely illuminated. The train which extended from the rudder was indescribably magnificent, being about half a mile in length, and exhibiting a vast assemblage of fiery orbs, commingling, uniting, dispersing, flashing, breaking into fragments, and changing colour, without intermission. While all this was going forward, I observed that large portions of the neighbouring sea were at intervals suddenly covered with a glow of bluish light, which increased in intensity for a few moments, and then vanished away. These vivid patches could be distinguished nearly as far as the horizon; but they occurred most frequently in the vicinity of the starry

train above described. The whole spectacle continued in its glory about half an hour, after which the luminousness diminished by degrees, and at length disappeared entirely.

This exhibition was acknowledged by the captain ~~and~~ all the crew to be the most brilliant one of the kind they had ever witnessed. While it lasted, several buckets of sea-water were drawn up; but it was impossible to examine their contents minutely or satisfactorily by candlelight; and the next morning's inspection produced no result that could be depended upon. However, we can hardly doubt that zoophytes and polypi are the usual causes of luminousness of the ocean. In addition to the assertions of various naturalists, we have the corroborating testimony of that admirable chemist, Murray, whose last scientific hours were devoted to the investigation of this subject.

A trifling circumstance serves to diversify the routine of life at sea, and to afford amusement and matter for conversation. One of the most pleasing incidents of the kind is that of

speaking a ship. No vessel can be seen in full grandeur and beauty, except out at sea, and from the deck of another, where her form, her motion upon the waves, and the manœuvring of her sails, may be contemplated to the best advantage. She then is a magnificent object ; but seems doubly so, if one recollects that she has human beings on board. The sympathies of men are instantaneously excited when they meet in the middle of the ocean ; for their respective situations have so much similarity, that they can mutually conceive each other's feelings, and a recognition, as it were, takes place among them, although they have never had any previous acquaintance. On two ships coming within hail, there always is a burst of feeling exchanged between their passengers, every one of whom looks as if he had discovered an old friend among the new faces before him ; and when they have an opportunity of meeting together and conversing, which sometimes is the case, the utmost good-humour and kind-heartedness characterize their intercourse, to the exclusion of all jealousy, su-

perciliousness, affectation, or studied detecting of faults and follies. Men seldom exercise unmingled generosity of feeling towards each other, except when taken by surprise. If they have time to assume set forms of behaviour, and to calculate the degree of respect and forbearance that is due to those with whom they are about to come into contact, they usually sacrifice all benevolent and considerate feelings to the selfish ambition of exciting admiration, and of making themselves appear of as much consequence as possible. Hence it is justly said, that a social party, suddenly and unexpectedly made up, in general proves more lively, amusing, and agreeable, than one for which people have been prepared by long invitations.

When two ships that happen to speak each other are bound different ways, their commanders seldom find it convenient to converse much, and usually part after exchanging a few questions. This is an interesting moment to the passengers of both vessels, who, as they mutually recede, feel that they have no chance of ever

meeting again. This conviction excites emotions much stronger than what the short and unsatisfactory intercourse they have had would seem to warrant. However, they know that they are placed in similar circumstances,—are exposed to similar dangers,—are far from their respective homes and friends,—are perhaps in pursuit of the same objects,—and have probably made similar sacrifices to attain them. These considerations are sufficiently impressive and affecting at the time they occur, to make a man recollect throughout life the voices and countenances of those persons with whom he has accidentally met or conversed in the course of a voyage to a foreign clime.

I have already remarked, that people while at sea seldom derive any pleasure from reading or domestic occupations; and this is the more unfortunate, as the ocean affords no sources of amusement capable of supplying their place. Even fishing and shooting are sometimes not attainable varieties. It is of little use to attempt the former, except in soundings; and the latter

proves at best a very unsatisfactory kind of sport, it being always inconvenient and often impossible to pick up the game.

The most productive kind of fishing is to be had on the banks of Newfoundland ; but one soon gets tired of pulling cod out of the water, and seeing them at table three times a day. Catching dolphin and barracata in the West Indian seas is a much more interesting occupation ; for the former fish, when dying, exhibits all the shades of colour so poetically described by Falconer in the Shipwreck ; and the latter, in flavour and richness, makes a near approach to turbot. When shoals of porpoises pass the ship, as they often do between the tropics, people have an opportunity of spearing them ; but it requires considerable dexterity to accomplish this, and they are good for nothing after they are dead. The fish that affords the best and the longest sport is the shark, which often will follow a ship some hundreds of miles, for the sake of picking up any thing that is thrown overboard. Being a cunning animal, it does not al-

ways take a bait, and, when hooked, requires a great deal of play to exhaust its strength; but this renders its capture delightfully interesting, and quite congenial to the feelings of the lethargic passengers, who have been instrumental in bringing it about. The bustle which the death of a shark occasions on board ship is indescribable. Even the most indolent people and most nervous females hurry from their cabins, to see it grind its teeth and beat the deck with its tail. Its dying moments are commented upon during the remainder of the day, and next morning a small part of its body served up at breakfast renews the subject. Some exclaim against tasting the forbidding dish, others hesitate whether they will venture to do so or not, and a third party eat of it boldly, in defiance of the shudderings of their companions, and the warning voice of the alarmist, who hints that the animal may be a poisonous one.

Hitherto I have described life on board ship chiefly as it is during moderate and favourable weather, when the passengers neither are irri-

tated by adverse winds, nor terrified by the prospect of going to the bottom. Under the latter circumstance the scene becomes one of uninterrupted misery; for to the annoying imprisonment incidental to a voyage, are added, the irritating prospect of being long at sea, a sense of imminent danger, and perhaps a high degree of personal suffering. An extremity of this kind does not indeed often occur, but still is sufficiently frequent to make one anticipate the possibility of it. Fear is remarkably contagious on board ship, because every one has an opportunity of observing his neighbour, and of watching the countenances of the captain and officers, which often announce, to those around them, that the hour of peril is at hand, when, by their words and behaviour, they would attempt to disguise the fact. But, in most cases, the passengers are left to form their own surmises about the real state of things, and to judge of the degree of danger by the appearance of the ship and the aspect of the weather. Their situation then becomes truly painful. They cannot assist

in managing the vessel, nor make themselves of any use whatever, and therefore have nothing to withdraw their minds from the surrounding perils, and the gloomy anticipations to which they give rise. At such a time the captain deserves no praise, even should he be the coolest and most collected person in the ship. His sense of responsibility, his numerous duties, and the incessant watchfulness which they demand, absorb him so completely, that every idea of danger is repressed and forgotten. Fear, like the devil, usually fastens upon idle people, because he knows that they seldom are able to resist his attacks. I have more than once had occasion to observe, during gales of wind, that the officers and seamen displayed unabating courage and confidence till the ship was laid to ; all necessity for active exertion being then past, they would droop in spirit, and become anxious and thoughtful, till the splitting of a sail, or the breaking of a yard, afforded them employment, and restored their former cheerfulness. But the unfortunate passengers have no stimulus of the

kind to displace their fears. Their chief employment is to mark the fury of the tempest, to listen to the waves thundering against the ship, to imagine themselves overwhelmed by the surrounding mass of waters, and to anticipate the awfulness of sudden dissolution. A party of people in this situation form a very impressive spectacle. Seated at midnight in a small cabin, imperfectly lighted, the gloom of the apartment corresponds with that of their minds. Not a word is spoken; and every one fears to look in his neighbour's face, lest he should find it reflecting back the dismay which he knows to be glimmering in his own. The deep moaning of the wind among the shrouds, the bursting of the surges, the dashing of the rain against the skylight, and the voices of the seamen heard faintly amidst the careering blast, combine to chill the heart into utter hopelessness, and to awaken a sickening sense of divine abandonment and of human impotence. The boldest spirit will sink under a continuance of such horrors, not so much from the fear of death, as from the vio-

lent mental excitement which they produce, and the impossibility of foreseeing what will be their result and termination.

A gale of wind at sea, though one of the most sublime spectacles in nature, is one of those that are the least susceptible of being well described. Its grandeur is so simple and undefined, and so destitute of marked and distinctive features, that the idea of it can hardly be reduced into words. Two vast and turbulent expanses of ocean and sky are the only objects that enter into the composition of the scene, which, being consequently almost quite homogeneous in its character, displays none of those striking contrasts, or unexpected varieties of aspect, which afford scope for descriptive writing.

However much people may dislike a sea-life at first, they usually become in some measure reconciled to it, after being several weeks on board ship ; at least, the disagreeables of their situation have then lost their asperity, and their minds have sunk in-

to a state of listlessness, and days and weeks pass on so drowsily and monotonously, that the lapse of time is scarcely perceptible. They become satisfied with the usual routine of breakfast, dinner, and supper, with the stale commonplace jests and remarks that are uttered during these meals, with the forenoon-stroll upon deck, and the evening's seat upon the poop, and with the happy privilege of lying down in their cots, and trying to sleep when they are tired of being awake.

But, after a long voyage, when they find themselves within one hundred miles of their destined port, what a revolution takes place in their feelings and habits of thought ! what hopes, what anxieties, what anticipations, arise in every bosom ! what incessant watching for the appearance of land ! what eagerness for fair winds ! what calculations respecting the hour of arrival ! what fearful curiosity about the new country which they are soon to behold ! and what fervent wishes, that the years they perhaps are to spend in it may prove years of hap-

plness, and not of disappointment ! The ship, which a few hours before was the seat of languor and indolence, is now transformed into a theatre of animation and activity. All its inmates are buoyant with hope, and every countenance tells plainly, that a state of expectation is the happiest of any.

At last land is declared to be in sight ; the passengers rush upon deck that they may confirm the intelligence with their own eyes ; some ascend the shrouds, others take their stations on the poop, and a third party hasten to the extremity of the bowsprit ; all the telescopes belonging to the ship are in requisition, and enviable is the lot of him who has one of his own. It being ascertained that the coast is really visible, the imaginations of those who are viewing it become excited, and they conjure up a thousand beautiful forms out of the obscurity which involves it, and give a local habitation and a name to things that have no existence. Each spectator embellishes the dim and distant land with such objects as correspond to the turn of

his fancy. One thinks he discerns a village, a second points out a waterfall, a third admires a visionary grove of trees, and perhaps a fourth asserts that he sees people walking about. Invention and curiosity are kept upon the stretch till the shades of night veil the interesting shore, and force its view-hunting observers to desist from their scrutiny.

Next day every one has assembled upon deck soon after sunrise, and actively commenced making preparations for going on shore. The ship is now within a few miles of her port, and the minutest features of the coast have become distinctly visible. Perhaps the land is barren, rocky, and uninhabited,—perhaps covered with human habitations and cattle, or perhaps richly cultivated, and glowing with verdure and vegetation. But its aspect, whatever it be, never fails to excite joyous emotions in the bosoms of those who have for months before been traversing the deep,—who, during that period, have daily beheld the sun rise and set on an unvarying expanse of waters around them,—have

heard no sounds, but the moanings of the wind and the dashing of the waves, and have seen no plants or flowers more fragrant than the drifting sea-weed, and none of the tenants of the earth or of the air, except the solitary albatross or storm-portending petrel. The face of nature, when first seen after a long voyage, awakens a thousand ideas and emotions that have been dormant during the period spent at sea, and diffuses a sunshine over the mind, which brings all its tender and benevolent affections into play, and makes it self-complacent and pleased with every external thing.

At length the vessel enters her port of destination, perhaps amidst the gaze of hundreds who have assembled to witness and to hail her arrival. The anxious passengers feel that they are again about to amalgamate with the mass of human society, and view the crowd on shore with sensations of distrust, and feel diffident about encountering the noisy and heartless bustle of active life, and the justlings of unknown and unconcerned multitudes. Mean-

while the seamen lower the sails, one after another, and when the ship has reached the spot for mooring, her commander calls out,—“ Let go the anchor.” A confusion in the water, and the thundering of the cable along the deck, announce to all on board that his orders have been obeyed, and that “ Life at Sea” has come to a termination.

The disembarkation of the passengers forms the final scene of the voyage, and perhaps not the least affecting, though the parties concerned seldom are in a frame of mind to feel it so. The bustle attendant upon leaving a ship, and the various objects which distract the attention at the time, make people forget that they are on the point of being separated, perhaps for ever, from those who have been their companions for many months, and who, during that period, have shared their dangers, sufferings, and anxieties. This consideration alone is sufficient to render a man's fellow-passengers objects of affecting interest in his eyes, when they

are bidding him farewell, and to fix them in his remembrance for many years. Perhaps, indeed, we longer cherish the recollection of those with whom we have made a voyage than of any other class of associates, and feel more interest in watching their career in the world than is proportionate to the regard we really entertain for them. But the intimate knowledge of their characters, which we have acquired while at sea, recurs to us in after-life, and we take a pleasure in examining whether or not the stations they respectively hold in society, and the degree of prosperity that has attended them, correspond with the estimate we had previously formed of their talents, dispositions, and acquirements. This inquiry must almost always suggest many painful reflections; for the history of each individual will in general exhibit a series of disappointments, and will afford melancholy proof, that, though a man may sometimes in so far be the architect of his own fortune as to succeed in laying a foundation and rais-

ing a superstructure, the plan and proportions of the edifice will usually be found alike unpleasing to his taste and inadequate to his purposes.

**BOARDING-HOUSE
RECOLLECTIONS.**

BOARDING-HOUSE RECOLLECTIONS.

AMONG the penalties incurred by travellers, that of foregoing the pleasures of a regular, settled, and domestic life, is no inconsiderable one. People who have been accustomed to live as fancy and inclination dictate, are apt to become impatient, when they find the management and control of their comforts taken out of their own hands, and placed at the mercy of others; while even those whose mode of life at home may be neither conformable to their wishes, nor very agreeable in itself, generally feel themselves disturbed and unhinged by that departure from their usual routine, which is a necessary consequence of travelling.

In Great Britain, and the more civilized countries of Europe, a man who has the command of money may contrive to alleviate most of the disagreeables that assail the tourist ; but should he visit distant lands, or travel at home without the means of choosing his accommodations, he will often be obliged to submit to comfortless and even revolting modes of life, and to mingle in society with people whom he dislikes and despises. If he requires to study and practise economy, he will occasionally find it necessary to take up his quarters in a public or private boarding-house. All such establishments, from their nature, are more or less unpleasant ; and though they afford favourable opportunities for observing characters and manners, this circumstance scarcely counterbalances the disadvantages and inconveniences that are always connected with them. However, they are more amusing places of resort than inns, in consequence of the varieties of style, company, pretension, and domestic arrangement, that exist within their walls. Taverns differ from each other

only in being large or small, good or bad, and with respect to charges, reasonable or expensive; but the characteristics that determine the classification of boarding-houses are of a much more interesting and intellectual description, and well deserve to be enumerated and commented upon.

Boarding-houses for the reception of travellers do not exist in Great Britain, at least not on the same plan as those that are to be met with abroad, where the stranger may take up his abode in them for a single day only, and with as little previous inquiry or preparation as he would use on going to a tavern. However, such places of resort are uncongenial to our national habits and feelings. An Englishman loves to have the enjoyment of domestic privacy and seclusion in his power, as well when travelling as when at home, and therefore prefers a quiet meal in his apartment, to the heartless conviviality of a table encircled by strangers. After a day's journey, he spends the evening at the fireside, pleased with the change from locomotion to rest,

and unwilling to admit into his retirement any guests more obtrusive than personal comfort and mental reflection. The unsocial disposition of British travellers, which is often commented upon with severity by foreigners, partly arises from the former having deeper feelings and greater powers of observation than the people of almost any other country. An enlightened and sensible Englishman, when visiting new scenes and new places, sees so much to excite emotion and awaken interesting ideas, that he becomes taciturn and thoughtfully inclined. His mind being actively engaged, and deriving abundant sources of gratification from surrounding objects, he is averse to having the current of his reflections interrupted by social intercourse, and therefore avoids the company of strangers. On the other hand, a Frenchman, when travelling, feels that his impressions are too superficial to yield him any abstract pleasure, and too fleeting to remain with him any length of time. He therefore gladly mingles in society, and feels as much in his element in a noisy boarding-house as an

Englishman does in the quiet parlour of his inn. An American, again, delights in the former place of resort, for his national vanity induces him to hurry into all sorts of society ; and being incased in a republican coarseness of feeling, he is as indifferent about what he comes in contact with as the armadillo itself. The persons whom he may chance to meet at a public table are all equally agreeable to him, whatever be the texture of their minds and manners, and the larger and more heterogeneous the party is, the more does he feel at home, because he has the greater inducement to shew himself off, and enjoys the greater triumph if he succeeds in establishing himself and his country in the estimation of those around him, which always constitutes the main object of an American when in the company of foreigners. Boarding-houses, I believe, are more common in France and in the United States than any where else ; and the national characteristics of the inhabitants of the two countries, in my opinion, sufficiently explain why they should be so.

Boarding-houses, of course, vary much, both with respect to the rank and description of their inmates, and the style of domestic economy observed in them. The highest class are perhaps those to which genteel married people resort; for the presence of females tends powerfully to check that conversational mannerism which is apt to characterize the social intercourse of men who meet daily at the same table, and to promote the observance of these little courtesies of life, that, under such circumstances, often fall into disuse. However, where there is a mixture of the sexes, an excess of ceremony usually prevails, and general conversation is banished from the circle. The married ladies sit next their husbands, and the unmarried ones are reserved towards the male part of the company, who become provoked if their attentions are contemptuously received, and perhaps jealous of each other should their respective powers of pleasing be brought into competition. Those men who have their wives with them often assume much more than they would

otherwise venture to do, because they know that the deference due to the feelings of the fair sex will prevent their fellow-boarders from resenting their presumption. In houses of this kind the dinners are usually *genteel*, that is, the inmates have a handsome table equipage before them, and plenty of servants to attend to their wants, but they cannot get enough to eat; however, at the same time, an appearance of comfort without the reality, and an air of chilly neatness and good order in the household-department, repress complaint, and freeze the shivering and half-starved guests into melancholy submission.

The boarding-houses belonging to the second class are those into which any stranger is admitted without giving a reference, or having a recommendation. Establishments of this kind are to be met with chiefly in the United States and in the British colonies; and their inmates, some of whom usually are constant residents, and some travellers, form a circle which exhibits an amusing, though perhaps rather disagreeable medley of characters and professions; and which,

notwithstanding the changes produced by arrivals and departures, always retains most of its peculiar and distinctive features, with little variation. Dinner is the most favourable time for observing and forming an estimate of the inmates of a boarding-house of this description. If there is any female at table, she may be put down as the wife of a shipmaster, as no woman of better condition would venture to appear in such a situation. However, in general, the company consists of men only, and the individual among them who has been longest domesticated in the establishment presides at meals, gives orders to the servants, criticises the dishes, affects to pay particular attention to strangers, and constitutes himself umpire of every thing connected with the banquet. Next in importance to the president usually is a person who may be called the buffoon of the party. He most likely possesses much good nature, and some humour and eccentricity, and allows his fellow-boarders to make a butt of him, and also attempts to amuse the guests by sallies, grimaces, and absurd re-

marks. These two individuals take the lead in conversation, and command the homage and admiration of their companions, most of whom probably are young merchants, commission agents, and scheming adventurers. The migratory guests, as may well be supposed, are not allowed to have much share in the conversation, and if they succeed in making the servants hear and obey their orders, amidst the vociferous demands and noisy imperiousness of the younger part of the company, they may consider themselves fortunate, and be contented to remain in the background.

I shall next sketch the characteristics of that class of boarding-houses in which the guests are expected to form part of the domestic circle, and to consider the mistress of the establishment and her family on an equality with themselves. These usually are unpleasant places of abode, for few people are disposed to accede cordially to such terms ; and to shew deference and respect to individuals who, however unexceptionable they may be in character and conduct,

necessarily hold a low rank in society. At the same time, one is unwilling to use frigid and repelling manners to those who are perhaps studying his comfort, and endeavouring to make themselves amusing and agreeable ; and, consequently, he finds it difficult to regulate his behaviour, so as to avoid the appearance of familiarity on the one hand, and of insulting hauteur on the other. I once, while residing in a boarding-house of this class, saw an instance of a young man becoming conciliating and even humble to his hostess and her family, although he had formerly always treated them as inferiors, and endeavoured to keep them at a respectful distance. This change of manners was occasioned by his falling in love with one of the old lady's daughters. He perceived he could not advantageously prosecute his suit unless he became on intimate terms with the fair one's relations ; and, after a long struggle, laid aside his reserve, and contentedly yielded up his dignity to the levelling power of love. However, this sacrifice had very little effect upon the object of

his regard, who gave him a decided refusal when he proposed marriage.

Attachments of this kind are of frequent occurrence in private boarding-houses, where unmarried females form part of the domestic circle. A young man residing among them, particularly if he is little in any other company, is very liable to have his affections entangled almost without knowing it; and a middle-aged one, who may have been insensible to the attractions of the pretty faces and accomplished manners he has met with in general society during the gay hours of youth, will often lose his heart unawares at the fireside of a boarding-house. Personal beauty is not requisite for the excitement of love under such circumstances. Good humour, cheerfulness, and those still small attentions that add to the comfort of social life, operate upon the heart more certainly and more effectually. The man who, after a day of active employment, or solitary idleness, has his evening hours enlivened by the presence and conversation of a female, will generally feel grateful to her if she be old, and

interested in her should she be young. The latter feeling soon ripens into affection, provided its exciting cause is continued ; and thus many an old bachelor unexpectedly finds himself entrapped by the vulgarish, but pleasing and sweet-tempered daughter of his hostess. The emotions of the old gentleman, when he discovers that he is really in love, are of a complicated description. He first feels angry, and suspects that he has been the victim of scheming and intrigue, and likewise experiences a sentiment of shame when he considers how quietly and insensibly the passion has stolen upon him. He resolves to think it a nonsensical delusion, and comes down to dinner with a ceremonious air, and receives the civility of his hostess with chilly hauteur ; however, he feels uneasy and embarrassed all the time, and looks as if he thought every one was laughing at him ; and should a smile appear upon any countenance, without an obvious reason for its being there, he instantly colours up to the eyes, and conceives that he is the object of ill-repressed merriment. At tea, he thinks he has completely

conquered his absurd partiality for the young lady, and begins to be on tolerably good terms with himself; however, about dusk she returns from an evening walk, and appears so lively, blooming, and attractive, that the old gentleman becomes a greater fool than ever, and the whole business is settled before supper, and his attorney receives orders to make out a marriage-contract on those sheets of parchment which were at one time intended to contain his last will and testament.

There is another kind of private boarding-house, all the inmates of which are of the same profession and standing in society. They perhaps consist of the clerks of some public office, or bank, or mercantile establishment, or of half-pay officers belonging to the same regiment. In the first case, the guests are probably induced to form a convivial association by similarity of character, and by a feeling of *esprit de corps*; and, in the latter, by the desire of keeping each other in countenance during a period of indigence and a life of obscurity. Both parties are

averse to admit any stranger among them ; but should one force himself into their establishment, they will make themselves so disagreeable as soon to induce him to seek other quarters.

The boarding-establishments frequented by half-pay officers are those in which the principle of giving every man as much for his money as the house can possibly afford is strictly adhered to. Their domestic arrangements are likewise characterized by various little ceremonials and pieces of etiquette, which are neglected in houses of a more genteel and expensive class, but which military men acquire a relish for in the mess-room, and consider essential to their comfort and dignity. Were these omitted, the boarders would probably move off at a quick march ; and some of them, in the hurry of departure, might perhaps forget to pay their bills. Their host or hostess knows this, and therefore cautiously avoids any offence of the kind.

The half-pay people rise from table immediately after dinner ; for they cannot afford to drink wine. If in London, the captains of the

party squeeze themselves into the pit of Covent Garden theatre at half-price ; but the lieutenants content themselves with seeing the melo-drama at the Adelphi or Cobourg ; while the poor ensigns are left behind to talk of brevet-rank, exchanges, and promotions, and to sip the mixture of hot water, brown sugar, and adulterated milk, that is distributed among them by their hostess under the name of tea.

A half-pay officer, living in a boarding-house of this kind, at the low rate of a guinea or a guinea and a half a week, will often play off an ingenious piece of deception upon his acquaintances. When he leaves his card any where, the person whom he has visited sees with astonishment the name of some fashionable coffeehouse upon it, and is at a loss to conceive how his friend can afford to have such expensive quarters ; but some initiated by-stander will probably soon explain the mystery in this way. Captain ——, being ashamed to give his real address, makes choice of some fashionable hotel as his nominal place of abode, the head waiter of which is induced, by a bribe

of a couple of guineas, to keep up the deception, and to declare to all visitors who may call, that the captain is not at home. The latter sends or goes to the coffeehouse every evening, and receives any cards, notes, or invitations, that may have been left there for him during the day; and then returns home and writes replies, which, though issued from the attic of his obscure and oeconomic boarding-house, perhaps bear the imposing name of Long's, the Pulteney, or the Clarendon, in the corners of their pages.

The only boarding-houses that now remain to be mentioned, are those that afford an asylum to unmarried females of the age of forty and upwards. Establishments of this kind are remarkable for neatness and regularity, but have little else to recommend them, the fires being generally bad, the meals penurious, and the company silent and austere. The old ladies remain in their respective apartments the whole day; during which they probably are engaged in very mysterious occupations,* for they almost always keep their doors locked. However, when the dinner

hour arrives, the grating of bolts and the turning of keys are heard in various parts of the house, and the rustling of silks soon after announces that the fair company is on the point of assembling together. The members of it, when seated at table, maintain a distant and cautious reserve, and look so scrutinizingly and coolly at each other, that a stranger would suppose that continual quarrels and insults had passed between them since morning. However, in reality, nothing of the kind has occurred; and were he to ask of their hostess the cause of such unaccountable behaviour, she would say that she did not know; but that they were very respectable women, and that it was just their way. It sometimes happens that an old bachelor gets domesticated in a party of this description, and its members consider him a great acquisition for many reasons. He brings in the news of the day, gives intelligence of sales, bankrupt haberdashery stock, reads aloud the newspapers in the evening, and, after supper, distributes among his fair fellow-boarders, a quantity of his punch or negus.

The quiet, unsuspecting man probably thinks that these little civilities cannot fail to secure him the good graces of the ladies ; but he is quite mistaken. When his back is turned they tear his character to pieces ; should he go out earlier, or come home later than usual, they express a thousand dark hints and suspicions ; his letters are held up to the candle, and their contents are imagined if they cannot be deciphered ; his looks and actions are misinterpreted, and perhaps the whole party, without any adequate cause, suddenly come to the conclusion that he is deranged, and pronounce that he ought to be placed under the care of his friends.

It is a common objection to boarding-houses, that one may in them be brought to contact with the most depraved and disrespectable characters without knowing it. But the man that entertains this fastidiousness of feeling must always avoid the society of strangers or fellow-travellers, because it will scarcely ever be in his power to ascertain who and what they are. There would be little pleasure or amusement in visiting new

places and foreign countries, were not one to mingle freely with the people whom he happened to encounter in the course of his journeys. If a person has the manners and the garb of a gentleman, these should be considered sufficient passports for his admission into a public boarding-house, as I believe they generally are, and also sufficient reasons for his being treated with politeness by its other inmates. When a rogue or impostor is detected in an establishment of the kind, the circumstance carries with it nothing discreditable to his fellow-residents. A man, though he happens to sit beside a knot of pick-pockets in the theatre, does not necessarily belong to their party.

I suspect, indeed, that the best and most truly respectable society is to be found in these boarding-houses into which people are admitted without the preliminary security of giving a reference, as it is called. To a mind of any delicacy, there is something degrading in the very idea of being required to obtain the testimony of a third person as an evidence of respectability

and good reputation, however reasonable and necessary such a demand may appear at the time. People of the better class do not readily submit to this exaction, and often go to a hotel, when their inclinations and the state of their purses would otherwise lead them to make choice of a boarding-house. Nothing can be more unpleasant than being exposed to the interrogatories and scrutinizing glances of the mistress of an establishment of the kind ; for nearly all of them are kept by females who seldom are very attractive in their manners to those who come to seek an asylum under their roofs. Some of them, however, are ill fitted to encounter the disagreeables of their situation. Indeed, it is sometimes impossible not to pity these women ; they are exposed to a hundred insults and impositions which they can neither resent nor avoid, and their boarders too often treat them with rudeness and unfeeling disrespect. The task of waiting upon strangers of the male sex, shewing them apartments, and answering their troublesome inquiries, and requesting them to give evidence

of their respectability, involves a woman in many unpleasant situations, to which want of delicacy, or want of feeling, alone can render her callous and indifferent.

However, the generality of females that keep boarding-houses in large towns, possess boldness and self-possession enough to enable them to take their own part ; and the stranger, desirous of domesticating himself under any of the roofs, will, unless he has some experience, be liable to be caught in the snares which many of them lay for the uninitiated. The prevailing style of the establishment, and the description of its inmates, may often be guessed at from the appearance and manners of its mistress, and from the tenor of her questions and answers. But the utmost penetration of this kind that any one can possess will usually be out-matched by her own. The quickness and discernment which these people exhibit in discovering the rank and circumstances of the strangers who come to their houses is truly astonishing. They draw their conclusions the moment they see the individuals, and con-

duct themselves towards them accordingly. Even the servants acquire, from constant habits of observation, a quick perception of character and condition on similar occasions, and they open the doors of the apartments, display their furniture, and describe their accommodations, in very different ways to different persons. This bastard knowledge of character, derived from external observation, is common to the menials of all public establishments in London. The coffee-room waiter, and the boarding-house chambermaid, are equally in the habit of forming an opinion respecting the real rank and pretensions of the stranger who requires their attendance, whether it be to bring a bill of fare, or to shew off a suite of apartments.

The number of private boarding-houses in London is immense; and it is curious to observe the style in which they are recommended by those who keep them, and the different lures that are thrown out to attract inmates. One advertisement will tell us, that "A widow lady, of domestic habits, would be happy to receive a

middle-aged gentleman of discretion as a boarder. The strictest attention will be paid to his comfort and happiness." But I should have a poor opinion of the discretion of any man, young or old, who would close with a proposal of this kind. Here is another trap; "An elderly lady, having in charge two orphans, the daughters of a deceased foreigner of rank, is desirous of obtaining two gentlemen boarders. The most particular references will be required, and none need apply who cannot furnish such.—N. B. The French and Italian languages are spoken in the family; and the boarders may have the use of a grand piano." The student, desirous of proficiency in French and Italian, had better take lessons from professional teachers than enter this seminary for linguists. The style of the following notification is particularly seducing: "Any gentleman desirous of enjoying domestic society in a small cheerful circle, where there would be no ceremony or constraint, may find an asylum of that kind in a pleasant airy situation three miles from Charing Cross. A taste for music would

be considered an acquisition. The house has a delightful garden attached to it, which abounds with nightingales.—N. B. The terms would be easily arranged, undoubted respectability of character being the chief requisite.” The idea of domestic society, music, and nightingales, is irresistible to old bachelors; and an advertisement of this kind would make them sally out by half dozens in the coldest morning, to inquire the particulars at the Courier or Times newspaper-office. The next is a lure of a different description: “Any young gentleman, who is fond of canary-birds and the amusement of a green-house, will find agreeable accommodations in a retired and rural situation, only thirteen minutes’ walk from the Royal Exchange.—N. B. There being young females in the house, the most unexceptionable references will be required.”

Those females who keep private boarding-houses in London sometimes play off an infamous trick upon the young men that happen to be their inmates, particularly if they are from

the country, and ignorant of city-intrigue. In the house the novice finds a girl, probably of pleasing appearance, whom his hostess calls her niece or daughter, and who is thrown in his way as often as possible. This lady understands how to manage her part, and does every thing to attract the admiration and encourage the attentions of the unsuspecting youth. An attachment perhaps takes place on his side, which its object leads him to believe is reciprocal, and the pretended mother secretly fosters its growth by every means in her power. Her victim at length commits himself by giving a promise of marriage, or by involving the girl's honour and reputation. His two seducers now pounce upon him, and frighten him with threats of prosecution, damages, &c., and he is glad to compromise the matter by paying a large sum of hush-money. He leaves the house, and the pleased confederates divide the spoil, and soon find a new dupe, who falls a victim to the same sort of artifices that were

so successfully employed against his predecessor.

From the cursory sketches which have been given, it will appear that boarding-houses of every description are unpleasant places of abode ; however, notwithstanding all their disagreeables, I suspect that they often afford the stranger and traveller a more congenial and comfortable asylum than he could otherwise so early obtain. Though the society found within their walls is in general bad, still, under certain circumstances, it is better than no society at all. The solitary individual who lives in private lodgings frequently has reason to regret the loneliness of his fireside, and to resort to various expedients to supply the want of cheerful companions. Were he in a boarding-house he would always have social intercourse of one kind or another at command, and might retire to his apartment when he felt disposed for quietness and contemplation. There is not a set of more forlorn-looking beings in the world

than those idle, middle-aged, unmarried gentlemen, who occupy furnished apartments throughout London. They breakfast at home, if lodgings can be called home, and then stroll out and waste the forenoon as they best can. At five or six in the evening they dine in a hotel, and, if not fortunate enough to meet with some acquaintance or conversable person there, they glance over the newspaper while drinking their wine. When they rise to go homewards, they look as if they regretted leaving even the coffee-room, and perhaps repair to one of the theatres, and find the dull routine of a pantomime, which they have already seen at least a dozen times, preferable to the solitariness of their unsocial firesides. Now, I am of opinion, that the man who resides in a boarding-house, even should he be teased by the assiduities of his hostess, or annoyed by the mannerism and stale jokes of his fellow-inmates, or frozen by the chilling reserve of a party of old maids, leads a more agreeable life than those cold-blooded misan-

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fills a well-frequented establishment of the kind. In the company of these he may pass away his evenings pleasantly enough, and either laugh at the rest of his fellow-guests, or avoid having any intercourse with them beyond what a regard for the common courtesies of life demands.

THE CITY OF HAVANA.

THE CITY OF HAVANA.

IT was on a beautiful afternoon that we approached close to the rocky coast of Cuba, and distinctly saw the towers of Havana, its capital city. The rainy season of the tropics had recently terminated, and the sky was brilliant, the air balmy, and the face of nature glowing with the richest and most varied hues. It blew a fresh and steady breeze,—dark fleecy masses of cloud often obscured the sun for a few moments, and dashed forth impetuous but transitory showers, as they were hurried along the face of heaven. When they passed off, sunshine and a glorious rainbow would succeed, and we could discover their shadows flying over the

groves and fields of the island, and plunging into the valleys and enveloping the tops of the distant hills. Lofty cocoa-nut trees grew along the shore, and negro huts reared their humble roofs among the brushwood in various directions. Some were situated in the midst of small cultivated spots, and others on the outskirts of tracts of land intended for coffee and sugar plantations. I observed boats of an uncommon form sailing close to the beach, and paddling up the little creeks that intersected it. Birds of radiant plumage and strange notes fluttered around our ship, the breezes were loaded with a dense and exotic fragrance, such as I never had felt before, and every thing I saw told me that I had reached a new and peculiar clime. We continued our course parallel with the coast till we reached the mouth of Havana harbour, which we entered amidst the picturesqueness of a splendid sunset.

The city of Havana lies near the western extremity of Cuba ; its fine harbour, extensive trade, prodigious wealth, and great population,

render it the most important and interesting town in the West Indies, and the key of the rich and noble island upon which it is situated. Havana is fortified in such a manner as to be impregnable, except at its back part, which, however, is accessible only by a circuitous route through the woods. In 1762 the city was taken by Lord Albemarle, after a siege of twenty-nine days; but several new batteries have been erected since that time, and it now seems doubtful whether an enemy could get possession of it, except by treachery.

The entrance to the harbour is defended by two forts, and is so narrow, that not more than one vessel can safely pass at a time. The fort on the east side is named the Morro, and that on the west the Punta, and both mount a large number of heavy guns, and completely command the adjacent seas. On the top of the former is a light-house and watch-tower, in which a person stands from sunset to sunrise, and hails every vessel that approaches, demanding of what nation she is, whence she comes,

and of what her cargo consists ; and any ship-master who does not hoist his flag, or refuses to answer these questions, is fired upon and severely fined. Formerly, during war, a very strong iron chain was drawn across the mouth of the harbour, and the stanchions to which its extremities were attached still remain.

On rounding the Morro castle, and entering the harbour, an interesting scene presents itself. In front one sees a forest of masts, surmounted with the flags of all nations, and vessels of every description, from the ship of war to the coasting-sloop, lie at anchor around him. On one side a high ridge of rocks, crowned with formidable batteries, extends along the water's edge ; and on the other are clusters of houses fancifully painted and adorned with verandas, terraces, and balconies, where groups of Spanish ladies sit enjoying the sea-breeze, and slaves stroll idly, awaiting their master's call. A little way off the antique towers of a convent rise with sober majesty, and, in the distance, spires of various architecture project into the clear

balmy atmosphere above, while the deep tolling of their bells comes upon the ear with varying loudness. Small boats with painted awnings glide about in every direction, conveying people to and from the different vessels; and the snatches of barbarous Spanish, which reach the ear as they pass and repass, forcibly remind the stranger that he is in a foreign land. But the vessel in which he is a passenger has scarcely time to let down her anchor before the custom-house barge, decorated with the national flag and manned by ten rowers, comes alongside. Her commander steps on board, and requests the manifest and a list of the crew, talks broken English, asks the latest foreign news, and struts about *in cavaliere*, while his dark-complexioned attendants remain in the boat, and direct significant glances to the captain of the ship, until he orders them their usual gratuity. The health-officer next makes his appearance, and inquires if there are any sick persons on board, and examines the passports, and, finally, declares that

the whole of the ship's company are at liberty to go on shore.

The wharfs at Havana are very extensive and commodious. Vessels lay with their bows towards them, and are so numerous and so close together, that a small boat can scarcely find room to make a landing. The moment a person steps on the quay, he is besieged with crowds of watermen, who offer their services to all who pass along ; and with the greater facility, as it is impossible to walk fast, on account of the piles of boxes, bales, and casks, that everywhere obstruct the way. Large vessels are daily loading and unloading ; and this labour is performed chiefly by blacks, who, covered with dust and perspiration, hurry through their work, shouting and singing all the while. The heat of the sun and the reflection from the harbour are nearly insupportable, and the hubbub that prevails, and the frightful figures that create it, make the scene altogether infernal in its character. The confusion is increased by shipmasters

hailing their respective vessels, and ordering their boats to be sent ashore ; while others, who do not understand the language of the country, hurry about, making unintelligible inquiries, and attempting explanations to no purpose, their tempers being at the same time irritated by crowds of seamen and blacks out of employ, who beset and follow them in all directions, amidst the odours of junk beef, molasses, oil, tar, and sugar, which struggle by turns for ascendancy, and add rankness to the suffocating breezes of a burning noon-day. In the more retired parts of the wharfs, Spanish gentlemen and merchants may be seen watching the arrival of vessels with anxious eyes and calculating brows. In other places jugglers are seated on the ground, with small pieces of carpet spread before them, on which are cards, dice, or cups and balls. Those people are usually surrounded by groups of seamen and low Spaniards, whom they harangue with great volubility, and urge to try their fortunes at some little lottery or game of chance,

which always proves a losing concern to those who are induced to engage in it.

As one advances into the town, the bustle gradually diminishes; but the streets exhibit a sufficient number of objects to attract the undivided attention of a stranger. His eye is first caught by the carriages called *volantos*, which dash across his path wherever he goes. A *volanto* resembles a low English gig, only the wheels are placed completely behind the centre of gravity, by which arrangement, the motion of the body of the carriage is rendered very moderate and agreeable; a curtain of blue cloth covers its front, and excludes the dust and the glare of the sun. A negro man rides upon the horse, which is generally a small mean-looking animal, almost sinking under the weight of its driver, whose legs, cased in wide hussar-boots, dangle in the mud, large patches of which may often be seen on the embroidered coat and cocked hat that envelope the upper parts of his figure. The persons that frequent the streets are generally

slaves, who wander about in groups, speaking a horrible jargon, and filling the air with fumes of tobacco. However, one may sometimes see a Spanish don, in a figured silk coat, parading consequentially along, and pushing the negroes off the pavement with his gold-headed cane, or have the pleasure of giving the wall to an elegant woman in a long veil, followed by a servant boy, carrying a cushion and prayer-book, to be used at mass. Perhaps a stout overgrown priest, panting with heat and fatigue, will next brush forwards on his way to the convent; while the person who succeeds him may be a Spanish officer in a tarnished uniform, stalking dejectedly along, and casting wistful glances under the curtains of the fashionable *volantos* that pass and repass, whirling his beautiful countrywomen from one part of the city to the other.

The streets of Havana are narrow, and, during the rainy season, excessively dirty; for some of them remain in a state of nature, having no pavement of any kind, either for carriages or foot-passengers. The houses are plain in their

architecture, and never exceed two storeys, and are usually painted blue, or some other bright colour. All the good houses are built upon the same plan, viz. that of a hollow quadrangle, which is the form best calculated for promoting a free circulation of air. In general, a gallery, surrounded by piazzas, extends around the upper flat, and forms, along with the court below, a place of recreation in the evenings, and a shelter from the heat during the day. The public apartments are usually spacious and tastefully furnished; no carpets are used, and in most houses the floor consists of a composition which is as hard as freestone, and admits of being washed several times a day; but some of the nobility have their rooms paved with black and white tablets of marble, placed alternately,—and this has a very beautiful effect. The shops in Havana are small and meanly furnished. Instead of the names of their occupants being placed above the doors, as is common in most countries, each has some figurative appellation to distinguish it from others of the same description, such as the shop

of victory, of humility, of pearls, of happiness, of good fortune, &c.

Havana contains many taverns and boarding-houses, two of which are resorted to by English and Americans only. For the first three days after my arrival I was obliged to reside in an establishment of the kind, which had some curious peculiarities. The charge was two dollars and a half per day, and for this sum an excellent breakfast, dinner, and supper, were furnished; but the sleeping rooms resembled damp and gloomy cellars; each of them contained three or four beds for the accommodation of an equal number of individuals. The landlord is a man of low origin and vulgar ideas, but of much shrewdness and remarkable assurance. To the business of a hotel-keeper he adds that of an undertaker; and thus turns to account every individual who arrives in Havana, by furnishing him with board and lodging if he lives, and with a coffin should he die. He sits at the foot of his table, does its honours as if his guests were visitors, takes the lead in conversation, and

boldly contradicts any thing they advance, if he happens to differ in opinion. Should a boarder be too late for any meal he loses it altogether ; and if he does not return to the hotel within a certain hour of the evening, he runs the risk of being shut out all night.

That such conduct is tolerated is partly to be ascribed to the ferocity of manner which prevails in the Spanish West Indies, and renders the inhabitants alike insensible of propriety and indifferent to the common courtesies of life, and partly to the peculiar circumstances and character of most of this man's guests. Persons of respectability often become his boarders on first arriving in Havana ; but, being soon irritated by bad treatment, they desert his house ; however, a certain class of people, comprehending slave-traders, American shipmasters, and New Orleans merchants, like their host much, and contribute powerfully to the support of his establishment. In addition to such inmates there are others of a superior description, who, having been forced by bankruptcy from more reputable abodes, take

refuge under his roof, aware that he is in the habit of allowing his guests a long and almost unlimited credit. The party that daily assembles at his table, though ever varying as to number, almost always exhibits an interesting medley of character. On one side may be seen the commander of a slave-ship, just returned from Africa. His sunburnt face, fiery eyes, irritable temper, and impatient demeanour towards the negro attendants, strongly indicate the sort of traffic in which he has been engaged, while his awkwardness, sullen silence, and coarseness of manner, equally shew that his occupation renders him a stranger to the humanizing influence of civilized society. Next him perhaps sits an English shipmaster, whose cheerful countenance, unconstrained address, propensity to mirth, and attention to the comfort of his fellow-boarders, contrast him powerfully with his unsocial neighbour. The captain of an American trader will probably occupy another part of the table, and display the prevailing characteristics of his countrymen, by his

vanity, love of argument, affected phraseology, indulgence in rhodomontade, and jealous anxiety to secure national respect. The person who occupies the next chair may be a merchant from New Orleans, who will talk incessantly of gaming, drinking, adultery, and duel-fighting, and attempt to bully into submission those who presume to dissent from his opinion, or to doubt the accuracy of what he believes to be true. Beside him, one will perhaps see a young and untutored foreigner, who has recently arrived in Havana on some mercantile speculation. Flushed with pleasure at being his own master, and confidently anticipating success and good fortune, his gayety is unbounded, and he little thinks that the demon of yellow fever may make him his victim before the lapse of another day, though the ghastly countenances and emaciated forms of several of the company, who are only recovering from the pestilence, would suggest some ideas of this kind, were his mind disposed to admit reflections of so gloomy a nature. The head of the table is the place where one may

expect to find a planter from the southern states of America; for pride will induce such a man to choose the most honourable seat. He will survey the party with contemptuous looks, strike the slaves in attendance if they misunderstand his orders, rest his heels upon the surface of the table, and, lastly, shroud himself in a cloud of tobacco smoke, and then, by dropping asleep, acquire those pretensions to the name of a rational creature which he is totally destitute of during his waking hours. The gentlemen refugees already mentioned, most of whom are deep in their host's books, occupy various parts of the circle, and may be known by their dejected looks, their forced and half-scornful laugh when the landlord says a good thing, their ill-suppressed resentment when he unceremoniously rallies them, and by occasional emanations of good manners and right feeling, which appear the more striking from their being quite foreign to the majority of the individuals among whom they are exhibited.

Such is the general character of the guests

who daily surround the table of this boarding-house, and who, doubtless, afford more interesting specimens of human nature, than persons of superior worth and endowments would do. The other establishment is generally occupied by the Europeans and Americans that reside permanently in Havana, and is conducted on a comfortable, liberal, and even an elegant plan; however, some few of its inmates are essentially the same as the party above described, only they dress better, and have more money in their pockets; which last superiority is one that avails a man fully as much in Cuba as in any other part of the world.

In walking through Havana, a stranger sees little to attract attention, for it contains no public buildings except the governor's palace and the churches. The former is a large square structure, in the lower part of which are several public offices, the gaol for criminals, and the prisons of the Inquisition. None of the churches have any exterior regularity of architecture, except those that are so plain as to be unworthy of

notice. The bishop's cathedral, where all the great religious ceremonies take place, is generally thought the finest of them, and its internal proportions are beautiful and grand; but their effect is spoiled by white-washing and large dashes of blue paint. The church of St Domingo, however, may be considered the most magnificent in Havana. Its walls are covered with rich carvings and gildings, curious paintings, and numerous images in splendid attire. All the vessels, candlesticks, or ensignia, used about the altar, consist of solid gold or silver, and its masses, ceremonies, and processions, are conducted with a pomp and grandeur surpassing that of any other religious establishment in the city. But imposing as the church is, its general effect upon the spectator does not equal that produced by St Francisco, the Gothic majesty and noble dimensions of which fill the mind with awe, and awaken and seem to realize all those ideas of monastic solemnity that are excited during early youth by the perusal of romantic fictions. The grand range of Gothic

arches on each side of the church, the aerial magnificence of its lofty roof, the sombre light shed upon the grey pillars, the echoing steps of solitary priests, and the gloomy recesses occupied by the saints, tend powerfully to create sensations of mysterious awe, and to make the feelings of a Protestant harmonize with the ceremonies of a Catholic place of worship.

Most of the churches are open during the whole day, and there is almost always some branch of the service going on in them; however, high mass takes place only in the mornings and evenings, and it is then that the greater number of people attend. The blacks and lower classes of Spaniards may be seen kneeling in the churches at all hours; but ladies seldom perform their devotions in public, unless the priests are reading the service. It is interesting to observe the zeal with which slaves, mulattoes, and persons of mean condition, mutter prayers and cross themselves, and offer adorations to some favourite saint, during the few moments of leisure that their respective avocations allow them. They

seldom pass a church without entering it; but the tenor of their lives clearly evinces that the frequent performance of the mere ceremonials of religion has the effect of making them forget that any attention to its precepts is at all necessary.

The masses got up in the churches are extremely fine, but owe much of their effect to concomitant circumstances. The musicians are chiefly mulattoes, who, though far from being scientific performers, execute their parts with facility and precision. I used to attend the church of St Domingo in the evenings, during the festival of Santa Maria. It was most brilliantly lighted up, particularly near the altar, every part of which had a covering of white satin, richly flowered with gold and silver. In addition to the lustres that hung from the roof, two immense wax-candles were placed beside each of the saints, whose gorgeous dresses sparkled with a profusion of artificial gems, and glowed beneath the golden radiance that was reflected from the splendid gildings that adorned the walls and pillars of the church. Crowds of

people always attended, and the place resembled a concert-room rather than a house of prayer. Ladies of all ranks and ages knelt promiscuously upon cushions. Slaves lay prostrate beside them. Spanish noblemen performed their devotions close by their livery-servants. Negro women and military officers kissed the same stone, and dozens of English, Americans, and other foreigners, occupied the door-way, and gazed upon the whole as if it had been an exhibition got up for their amusement. The ringing of the bells, the flourishing of the orchestra, the pealing of the organ, and the ceremonies performed by the priests, alternately drew the attention ; while sometimes a momentary pause in the service permitted the fair devotees to exchange a few smiles, and enjoy a little conversation with each other behind their fans. Mass being concluded, most of the people rose from their knees, and walked carelessly about the church, conversing with their acquaintances, and admiring its decorations. In a little time the ladies were handed to their volantos by their husbands or

cecisbeos,—the priests began to ~~extinguish~~ the candles,—the musicians left the orchestra, and the whole audience gradually dispersed.

All the churches in Havana do not possess equal means of supporting that pomp and splendour which their priests consider so essential to the glory and dignity of the Catholic religion. Some of the establishments are extremely poor, and others immensely rich. Every church receives annually from the king a sum proportioned to the number of monasteries that belong to it; but that being no more than sufficient to defray its necessary expenses, and afford subsistence to the priests, does not furnish means for a display of magnificence at festivals and religious ceremonies. A fund for this purpose must be formed out of legacies and donations, and the money received for granting absolutions, respites to criminals, indulgences, &c. Large sums are likewise frequently extorted from rich men when on their death-beds. Their confessors remind them of their iniquities, express fears about their eternal salvation, and advise them to expiate

past guilt, and save their souls, by bequeathing their property to the church. The priests thus often gain an entire ascendancy over the minds of their victims, and perhaps make them forget the claims of a destitute family, and resign all their possessions into the hands of the holy brotherhood.

The number of priests in Havana exceeds four hundred. With a few exceptions, they are most useless and expensive members of society, and neither deserve nor enjoy the respect of the community. However, no one dares openly to speak against them; but the shrug of the shoulders, and expressive raising of the eyebrows, practised by many Spaniards when a member of the church passes along, prove that they hold their pastors in little estimation, and suspect that their sanctity lies no deeper than the folds of their gowns. In Havana, the church is nearly omnipotent, and every man feels himself under its immediate jurisdiction. Most people, therefore, attend mass regularly, make confession, uncover when passing a reli-

gious establishment of any kind, and stand still in the streets, or stop their *volantos*, the moment the vesper-bell begins ringing; but they go no farther; and the priests do not seem at all anxious that the practice of such individuals should correspond with their profession.

The priests shew, by their personal appearance, that they do not practise those austerities which are generally believed to be the necessary concomitants of monastic life. The sensual and unmeaning countenances that encircle the altars of the churches, and the levity and indifference with which the most sacred parts of the service are hurried through by those whose duty it is to perform them, would shock and surprise a Protestant, were he to attend mass in the expectation of finding the monks those solemn, majestic, and awe-inspiring persons which people who never visited Catholic countries often imagine them to be. However, one may always discover some fine, dignified, devout-looking old men among the throng of those ecclesiastics who ap-

pear on festival days; and many of the former bear the characteristics of a genuine and fervent piety, which they are publicly known to possess and to exercise.

In wandering through the church of St Francisco, after the evening service had concluded, I have more than once found a solitary priest kneeling before his favourite saint, in a state of apparent abstraction. On those occasions I used to step behind a pillar, and remain in concealment, which the surrounding gloom enabled me to do without difficulty, and thus watch the devotee, and listen to his sighs and murmured prayers. At such moments my situation was a very impressive one. The Gothic arches around me, the dimness of twilight, the immensity and desertedness of the building, and the existing silence and obscurity, contrasted with the inspiring music that had just ceased, and the brilliant lights that had recently been extinguished, and the sublime attitude and occupation of the individual who engaged my atten-

tion, formed a combination of circumstances that could hardly fail to excite the imagination, and to affect the mind strongly and permanently.

It is evident that, however interesting the objects with which a man is surrounded may be, he will overlook them all if he is aware that his life is in danger. Therefore, most foreigners, on arriving in Havana, think more about the yellow fever than any thing else. The fatal effects of this disease are forced upon their attention so frequently, and in so many different ways, that none but those who possess a large share of philosophical coolness can regard its ravages with indifference. At the boarding-house, a man seldom sits down at table without perceiving that one or two of the usual party are absent. If he inquires for them, he is told that they lie dangerously ill, and in the course of next meal probably receives intelligence of their dissolution or burial. Those who have resided long in Havana hear things of this kind without the slightest discomposure, and sometimes even pass jokes upon the subject; for a

consciousness of their own security makes them careless about the danger to which others are exposed; while, at the same time, a familiarity with sudden death renders its awfulness comparatively unimpressive.

The proximate causes of the yellow fever have not as yet been correctly ascertained, and therefore it is difficult to explain why this epidemic should prevail so much in Havana. The city is indeed filled and surrounded with sources of disease. The streets are badly aired and odiously dirty; the water is obnoxious to the eye and to the taste, and the harbour forms a receptacle for the innumerable impurities which are daily thrown from four or five hundred vessels of all descriptions and sizes. The miasmata arising from such a quantity of putrescent materials, conjoined with the scorching heat of the sun, soon operate upon a European constitution, and produce the most fatal consequences. Two-thirds of the crew of a ship, recently come into port, often fall victims to the yellow fever in the course of a few days. Those who escape

the first attack of the disease are generally exempted from a second, unless they leave Havana, and return to it after residing some months in a northern climate. The Protestants who die in Cuba are not allowed interment among Catholics; and therefore the hotel-keeper already mentioned has a burying-ground of his own, in which the bodies of the English and Americans are deposited; however, within these few years past, the mortality has been so great that the premises have become rather small, and the corners of the piles of coffins, which occupy every part of them, may be seen projecting through the earth.

Spaniards of the better classes do not, in general, associate with those British and Americans who reside in Havana. The latter, therefore, form a circle of themselves, which, as may well be supposed, is not a very refined one, its members being little better than illiterate and uneducated adventurers. In Havana, few foreigners have domestic establishments of their own, but usually congregate at a boarding-

house. Here living unmodelled by the restraints imposed by female society, and unchecked by any good morals or good manners inherent in themselves, they become a very boisterous and disagreeable set of people. As they are continually in each other's company, their conversation and ideas partake of that mannerism which prevails among the inhabitants of little villages, and among clerks in public offices. They have their own jests, their own small talk, and their own style of raillery ; all of which are at first as unintelligible to a stranger as they afterwards appear stupid and vulgar when he does understand them.

An Englishman or American of the class above described leads a very contemptible sort of life. If he be a merchant, he despatches all his business in the course of the forenoon, and must therefore contrive to occupy himself somehow or other till the hour of dinner arrives. In the West Indies, no man ever reads any thing but an invoice or a bill of lading ; consequently the idea of taking up a book is one that does

not enter the mind of our loungee, unless in a rainy Sunday, when he perhaps may endeavour to kill time by conning over his ledger. His only resource then is to go to the coffee-house, and to smoke segars and drink punch with his acquaintances, and overlook the billiard-players. Here he meets some of his set, and loiters with them among the crowds of poor and idle Spaniards who throng the place, and view every foreigner with malignant and supercilious glances. In the afternoon he returns to the boarding-house, dines, takes a siesta, and concludes the evening with cards and brandy and water.

After a foreigner has walked through the streets of Havana, and visited its principal churches, he will find little else to interest him, unless he gains admission into the higher circles of Spanish society. The number of public amusements which the place affords is not at all proportioned to its wealth and population. Comedies and operas are performed alternately in the theatre; and bull-fights take place once a month, and attract a numerous and fashionable

assembly, particularly when it is announced that the animals are to be stuck with fireworks, and forced to the combat till they die. Crowds of ladies always attend such exhibitions, which vary in popularity according to the degree of slaughter and bloodshed that characterizes them.

The Alameda, or public walk, which lies within half a mile of the town, is a place of common resort in the summer evenings, and forms the Hyde Park of Havana. Here the Spanish ladies drive backwards and forwards in their volantos, and use every means to attract the attention and excite the admiration of the passing and repassing throng. The curtains of the carriages are thrown aside, as also veils and shawls, and every thing that can prevent female display. On such occasions the fair Cubanas are dressed with much taste and elegance, and the surrounding scenery is well calculated to dispose the spectator to view them with interest and complacency ; for the balmy richness of evening in the tropics, the gorgeous magnificence of sunset,

the breezes perfumed by orange-trees, an animating succession of carriages and happy human faces, and the grand martial harmony of a Spanish military band, usually throw their inspiring influences over the Alameda.

Though the ladies of Havana are exempted from those personal restraints which the customs of Spain formerly imposed upon the sex, the climate and fashions of Cuba prevent them from being as much in public as they desire. No woman of respectability ever walks out except when going to mass, and consequently the female members of those families who cannot afford to keep *volantos*, are almost entirely confined to their respective houses, where they spend the greater part of the day in looking from their windows into the street. The ladies of Cuba have in general no taste for domestic occupations; and the bodily languor produced by tropical climates sufficiently excuses their indolence in this respect. They value home as little as French women do, and have no pleasures excepting what are derived from visiting and

public amusements. The married men in Havana are not the jealous and untractable persons which Spanish husbands have long had the reputation of being. They neither shut up their wives nor place them under the vigilance of duennas. The excitements to romantic intrigue consequently do not exist, and gallantry becomes the common-place thing that it is in most other countries. A man may walk through the streets of Havana at all hours of the night, without meeting any person like a lover, and he has no chance of ever having his sleep agreeably disturbed by the harmony of a serenade.

The most interesting and most frequented public amusements in Havana are balls, which take place during religious festivals. On such occasions it is customary for two or more individuals, who have large houses in the vicinity of the church where the feast is celebrated, to throw them open for the reception of genteel company, none of whom pay any thing, except when they call for refreshments; the profits upon the sale of which defray the expenses of lights

and music. A transaction of this kind is not considered at all discreditable ; for it occasionally takes place under the roofs of very wealthy and respectable families ; while persons of inferior rank in the neighbourhood usually adopt the same plan, and allow their houses to become a place of resort for the lower classes of society.

I attended two of these balls, which were held near the church of St Mercy. The scene presented by the neighbouring streets was not the least interesting part of the exhibition. A variety of booths and stalls, lighted with torches, and attended by negroes, first caught the eye. Crowds of slaves and mulattoes were moving backwards and forwards among these, and talking vociferously together ; while, at intervals, a party of elegant white-robed Spanish' ladies would glide through the motley throng on their way to the dancing-room. The spire and antique form of the church of St Mercy were at one moment revealed by the flashing of the torches, and at another by the uncertain radiance of a moon curtained by fleecy clouds. The

streets, which diverged on either side, were dark, gloomy, and deserted, and all that was gay, active, and animated in Havana, seemed to have concentrated itself in one spot.

On entering the house where the ball was held, I found myself in a large saloon, the lower end of which was occupied by card-tables. Crowds of people stood around these; but, on examining the countenances of the different parties, one could easily discover who were gamers and who were mere spectators. Large piles of dollars and doubloons lay exposed to view on the table that first attracted my attention, and the person who presided made a distribution of these twice or thrice every minute. The stakes were rapidly lost and won, the whole depending upon the turning of a card. The persons who played, though to all appearance equally interested in the issue of the game, were as dissimilar in their characters as in their deportment. At one end of the table stood, as appeared to me, a cool, deliberate, professed gamester, studying the calculation of chances,

receiving and pocketing his gains as a matter of course, and sneering at the elevation of spirits which temporary good fortune produced in those whom he had marked out for his dupes. Beside him was a young man, who seemed to have a more engrossing object in view than mere gain. He had probably embezzled some money, and was now attempting to extricate himself from his embarrassments. His gestures and looks were vehement and agitated; and I observed, that, always after winning a stake, he retired from the table, and emptied out and counted over the whole contents of his purse, and then replaced them, sometimes with an air of satisfaction, and sometimes with an expression of despondency. The next person that attracted my attention was a young foreigner, whose behaviour showed that he had not been accustomed to resort to public gaming-houses. He laid down his money with a glance of distrust, and seemed anxious to claim the protection of those around him, and took up his winnings diffidently, and as if he doubted whether they justly be-

longed to him. An old Spanish gentleman stood on the opposite side of the table. His figured silk coat, gold-headed cane, and assuming deportment, shewed that he was a person of some wealth and consequence. He seemed to affect to play merely for amusement, and threw down his money noisily and carelessly, surveyed his winnings with indifference, and allowed them to lie untouched before him for a considerable time. When he happened to lose, he looked angry and impatient, but not distressed, and tapped the floor with his stick. Close behind him I could observe an old lady deeply interested in the game. She was evidently anxious to conceal herself, but at the same time the gold and silver had such attractions, that she could not resist approaching the table. She held a Catholic missal carelessly in one hand, while some dollars were firmly clinched within the other. She had just deposited a small stake, and was anxiously awaiting the result of her venture. It proved an unfortunate one, and as I walked from the table, I overheard her mut-

tering some words which I am sure she did not find in her prayer-book.

The ball-room presented a more pleasing and not less interesting scene than the gamesters and card-tables had done. On entering I found a lady and gentleman dancing a minuet. They performed their parts with grace and dignity, and the music was rich, grand, and beautiful. An apartment, brilliantly lighted up, rows of benches filled with elegant and pretty women, and groups of Spaniards standing together, were the objects that first engaged my attention. On surveying things more minutely, I was struck with the studied simplicity of dress which the females exhibited, and with the indescribable charm which sparkling eyes and glossy hair diffused over features that individually were neither very handsome nor very expressive. But the men formed a complete contrast with their fair countrywomen, being clumsy in their persons, harsh in their manners, and slovenly in their dress. Many of them wore blue surtouts and boots, and some carried umbrellas and smoked

segars, and all had an air of dishabille and awkwardness about them, that ill befitted a ball-room.

The minuet being concluded, a set for a country-dance was soon formed. The figure, which combined the quadrille and waltz, had much variety and elegance, and full justice was done it by the beautiful dancing of the ladies, and by the richness of the accompanying music. About midnight the people began to desert the scene of festivity, and to walk homewards in parties. I remained observing the card-tables till every one had quitted them also, except three emaciated, sombre-looking men, who continued their game in silence by the light of an expiring lamp.

I soon afterwards had an opportunity of witnessing a scene of a different and even more imposing description. This was the drawing of the national lottery, which takes place monthly, and is the means of producing a large revenue to government. The ceremony is therefore conducted with a degree of pomp and splendour

that is well calculated to please and attract the common people, and to induce them to risk their money at what may be called the national gaming-table. The number of tickets issued is usually about ten thousand, one hundred of which are prizes of from twenty thousand to fifty dollars. The smallest share costs one shilling and twopence sterling. For several days previous to the drawing the lottery-office is crowded with boatmen, common soldiers, slaves, and mulattoes, and all the refuse population of Havana, who come to purchase tickets with money which they have probably obtained for that purpose in the most infamous and criminal ways.

The drawing of the lottery took place in a large square, surrounded with piazzas. Towards one side there was a platform about ten feet high, with an awning above, and on this the governor and several of his officers seated themselves in chairs of state, and presided over the ceremonies of the day. In front were placed two large, elegant, hollow spheres, con-

taining the prizes, one of which was drawn from each globe at the same moment by a little boy, fancifully attired and blindfolded. The two deities of fortune held the tickets over their heads for a few seconds, to shew the spectators that no deception was practised, and then presented them to the governor, whose clerk immediately registered them, and proclaimed the number and amount of the prize with a loud voice. These particulars were next chalked conspicuously on a large black board, that hung within view of every one; and, after a short pause, new sets of tickets were drawn in the same way, till the wooden spheres were emptied of their contents. When the prize happened to be one of four hundred dollars, or upwards, a fine military band, stationed near the platform, suddenly united in a brilliant flourish, and then played some triumphant and joyful piece of music. The governor then waved his hand, the harmony ceased, and the usual course of proceedings was resumed.

The first ticket had just been drawn when

I entered the square, and found myself surrounded by an immense concourse of people, and in front of the platform already described. Negro and mulatto men and women composed the chief part of the crowd ; but many Spaniards of the lower class were intermixed with them, and a few gentlemen strolled about like uninterested spectators. In one corner I observed a knot of English shipmasters shrugging their shoulders, and viewing the scene as if they thought every one present was in the way of being imposed upon but themselves. At a little distance were three emaciated, anxious-looking men, whose tarnished uniforms and rusty-handled swords made me take them for half-pay officers. One held in his hand a piece of paper, which I suppose contained the numbers of their tickets ; for they all looked at it and at the black boards by turns, and then exchanged wistful and desponding glances. I next discovered a priest concealing himself behind a piazza. He grasped a bunch of lottery-tickets, and, every time a new-drawn number was proclaimed, turned them

over as rapidly as a banker's clerk could count notes. His quick eye, impatient demeanour, and unsuitable occupation, told plainly that his heart had not yet renounced the vanities and pleasures of this world, though he might feel unwilling to be detected in seeking after the means of indulging in them.

I placed myself on a small elevation near the platform, and there enjoyed a full view of the upturned faces of the anxious crowd, many of whom had doubtless staked their all on the fortunes of the day. The moment the boys held up the tickets, a dead silence ensued, and a thousand speaking eyes were at once fixed upon the person whose business it was to proclaim the numbers. Never before did I see so many countenances animated by one predominant expression. The clumsy uncouth features of the negro, the dim spare visage peculiar to the mulatto, the whiskered stern looks of the boatman, the morose high brows of the Spaniard, and the hard unbending lineaments of the seamen, were moulded with magical quickness into an aspect

of intense interest and anxiety. The prizes are announced,—a bustle pervades the crowd,—hundreds of pieces of paper are drawn forth and unfolded, and hundreds, who have not heard distinctly, ask their unheeding companions to repeat the words of the crier,—the crash of trumpets, drums, and cymbals, bursts upon the ear,—and the impatience of those who are still in suspense about the number increases tenfold. However, the owner of the prize perhaps betrays himself by intemperate expressions of joy,—the people throw surly and invidious glances at the happy man, and then relapse into their former composure.

The drawing lasted nearly an hour, during the whole of which the multitude was agitated by alternations of suspense and disappointment. The ceremony being concluded, the governor and his suite left the platform. The people collected into small parties, and talked sullenly together, and then slowly dispersed with discontented and repining looks ; for, though I stood at

the gateway of the square, and remarked almost every one that passed out, I could not discover the slightest trace of satisfaction or good humour in any countenance. The few hundreds who had divided the prizes were probably lamenting that larger ones had not fallen to their share ; while the disappointed thousands were, on the other hand, regretting that they had risked their money at all.

The people who compose the lower classes in Havana are of three different descriptions, viz. free blacks, slaves, and Spaniards. All of them are very dissolute and unprincipled ; and, I believe, the city is the scene of more outrages and daring crimes than any other of its size in the civilized world. Assassinations are so frequent that they excite little attention ; and assault and robbery are matters of course when a man passes alone and at night through a solitary quarter of the town. People, who have occasion to go out in the evening, usually carry swords or pistols, or walk together in parties for mutual

security; and two individuals meeting in the dark will look suspiciously at each other, and choose different sides of the street.

This depraved and lawless state of things may be ascribed to three causes;—the inefficiency of the Havana police,—the love of gaming and dissipation that prevails among the lower orders,—and the facility with which absolution of the greatest crimes can be obtained from those to whom the people are taught to intrust their consciences and spiritual concerns. In fact, the Catholic religion, as it now exists in Cuba, tends to encourage rather than to check vice. We shall suppose, for example, that a man makes himself master of one hundred dollars by robbing or by murdering another, and that the church grants him absolution for half of the sum thus lawlessly obtained, it is evident that he will gain fifty dollars by the whole transaction, and think himself as innocent as he was before he committed the crime.

Several assassinations take place in the streets of Havana every week; but one will not learn

this from its newspapers, or from the Spaniards themselves, both the government and private individuals being anxious to conceal from foreigners the reproachful state of their town. When the dead body of a stranger, or person of low rank, is found, it is laid on the pavement in front of the prison, and is allowed to remain there till claimed or recognised by relations or acquaintances ; and, therefore, those alone who have occasion to pass the place of exposure early in the morning, know how often a murder is committed.

Notwithstanding all this, public executions seldom occur in Havana. The negligence of the police enables four-fifths of the offenders to escape detection ; while many of those who are apprehended and condemned to death contrive to evade the penalty of the law. The priesthood are equally powerful and corrupt, and no man need mount the Havana scaffold, whatever be his crime, if he has the means of ministering to the rapacity of the church, and of bribing the civil authorities. A poor friendless criminal is ex-

ecuted a few days after sentence has been pronounced upon him ; but a person of wealth and influence generally manages to put off capital punishment for a series of years, and at last to get it commuted to fine or imprisonment.

Three instances of this kind came to my knowledge while in Cuba. In one case, two girls, who were found guilty of having murdered their mother, under circumstances of the deepest atrocity, were condemned to death. Their crime excited the public indignation in a high degree, and no one thought them entitled to the least mercy or indulgence. The populace looked forward anxiously to the day appointed for the execution, but when it arrived the criminals were not brought forth. Another day was soon announced, which, however, also passed over without bringing punishment along with it. After this, the two matricides, and the inexplicable lenity shown them, gradually ceased to interest the public mind, and it was at last stated, that they had unfortunately escaped from prison, and left the island. However, in the course of

time, it came out, that a rich uncle had, by paying sums of money to the church, succeeded in twice deferring the execution of his nieces, and, finally, in making the civil authorities privately afford them the means of escaping to Florida.

Some years ago, a Spaniard, who lived in the suburbs of Havana, discovered that his wife carried on a criminal correspondence with her confessor. In his jealous rage he hired a negro to murder the priest. When the assassin had accomplished his purpose, he went to the house of his employer at a late hour one night, and told what he had done, and demanded the promised compensation; but the Spaniard either would not or could not give this, and some high words which ensued between the parties having been overheard by the neighbours, the whole affair was soon brought to light. The Spaniard was apprehended, tried, found guilty, and condemned to death. However, by means of bribery, he succeeded in delaying his execution for more than two years. His funds being at last exhausted, the black cross and lanterns, the

appearance of which announces, in Havana, that the criminal has only two days to live, were exhibited before the prison windows. Nevertheless, on the succeeding morning, to the astonishment of all, they were suddenly withdrawn; for the wretched murderer had, by a desperate effort, raised a small sum of money, and purchased with it a few weeks' respite. On the expiry of these he was hurried to the scaffold and executed.

While in Havana, I saw a mulatto suffer death for a murder which he had been found guilty of seven years before. He had obtained a series of respites by occasionally paying money to the church; but his resources having at last failed, he could not delay the evil day any longer. When brought to the scaffold he was more like a spectre than a man. Long confinement, fear, and anxiety, had produced frightful emaciation, and a faint expression of dismay, which at intervals glimmered over his ghastly countenance, alone shewed that the flame of life was not yet entirely extinct. He walked from the gaol to the scaffold, a distance of a mile and a half.

Three priests, one of whom carried the black cross and lanterns, accompanied and supported him, and frequently whispered something in his ear; but he seemed too fatigued and miserable to pay much attention to what they said.

The scaffold was situated in an open plain, and an immense crowd had assembled to witness the execution. A morose, ferocious-looking negro sat in the chair destined for the criminal, resting his elbows upon his knees, and carelessly twisting in his fingers the cord with which he was soon to bind the limbs of his victim. A detachment of dragoons surrounded the scaffold, and kept back the people, who were very noisy and impatient. At last the solemn ruffle of a drum was heard, the number of voices instantly ceased, and the unhappy object of public curiosity, habited in a long white gown, and attended, as I have described, soon became visible. On reaching the scaffold, he was immediately conducted up the steps, and placed in the fatal seat. The executioner, having then adjusted round his neck an apparatus intended to produce sudden

dislocation of the vertebræ, retired to one side, while the priests addressed the criminal for a few moments. The negro now advanced to the back of the chair, and seized one end of a lever, and wrenched it violently round,—the mulatto gave a convulsive start, and was dead in a moment. A recoiling sensation, like an electric shock, agitated the spectators; but it soon subsided, and most of them rushed tumultuously forwards, and got close to the scaffold, notwithstanding the efforts of the dragoons to prevent them.

The executioner, priests, and military, departed without removing the dead body, it being an established custom in Havana to execute the criminal before sunrise, and to leave the corpse exposed to public view till sunset. Aware of this, I returned to the ground in the middle of the day. On getting beyond the walls of Havana, I at once exchanged the tumult of a city for the loneliness of a large uncultivated plain, bounded on one side by the sea, which beat fiercely on the rocks that stretched along the shore. In a dis-

tant corner there was a cluster of people talking together, and pointing to the scaffold where the mulatto sat in all the stillness and solemnity of death, without a living or a moving object near him. This spectacle was more terribly impressive, and better calculated to affect the feelings and imaginations of the multitude, than the execution itself, which had a tendency to excite exclusively those sensations of horror and disgust which the deliberate sacrifice of human life, however lawful and necessary it may be, generates in every uncorrupted mind.

Havana at first proves an interesting town to a foreigner. The varieties of people there, the peculiarities of West Indian manners, the system of slavery that prevails, the splendour of the churches, and the national habits and prejudices of the Spaniards, powerfully attract his attention, and form amusing subjects of speculation ; but the disagreeable features of the place soon force themselves into view, and when he finds around him a debased state of society, a pestilential atmosphere, an unprincipled and

hypocritical priesthood, and a dissolute and atrocious populace, curiosity yields to disgust, and he becomes anxious to leave the spot where his most pleasing impressions are so mingled with those of an opposite character, that they fail to afford him any permanent gratification.

**A JOURNEY IN THE
DECKAN.**

A JOURNEY IN THE DECKAN.

AN uninitiated stranger, on seeing any one about to commence even a short journey in India, would suppose, from the formidable nature of his preparations, that he intended to undertake an expedition into an unknown and unexplored tract of country.

The Asiatic traveller must, in addition to his tents, horses, and personal baggage, carry along with him a complete domestic establishment, including cooking utensils, table-equipage, liquors, and furniture of every kind. It may easily be supposed, that great numbers of people and cattle are required to convey and take care of so many moveables. Six or seven Europeans,

on a journey in India, have a retinue along with them almost as large as usually attends a marching regiment in England.

In India, people usually travel at the rate of twelve or fourteen miles a day ; this moderate stage always being commenced early in the morning, and performed before the sun has acquired much power. Servants, sent forward the preceding night, prepare breakfast, and have it on the table whenever the party arrives at the encamping ground ; and therefore the first thing one does after his morning ride is, to sit down to a substantial repast. He spends the day in the most agreeable way he can till the hour of dinner arrives, which is seldom made a late one. At night, the servants go off with the mess-equipage and the large tents, the small ones, in which the party sleep, being left behind. When their occupants have started next morning, the people in charge strike them, and bring them on to the encamping ground, where they are again pitched for the same purposes as before. This is the common routine of travelling in India ;

and the arrangements, when well made, are such, that very little fatigue and a good deal of comfort attends it. The slow progress one makes in a journey at first appears very annoying; but he has only to expose himself to the fatigue of travelling double the common distance for two or three days together, to get completely reconciled to diurnal stages twelve miles long.

It will perhaps occur to the reader, that this leisurely mode of travelling must be attended with great advantages, in so far as it affords one an opportunity of viewing minutely every object of interest that falls in his way. But in India a traveller seldom meets with any thing worthy of inspection, either in scenery, or in the province of art; and when he does, he finds more labour than pleasure in visiting it, the heat during the day being so overpowering as to repress that curiosity and spirit of observation which make people on a journey exert themselves to see all that is to be seen. The Asiatic traveller thinks it the greatest hardship in the world to be obliged to step out of his route for the purpose

of looking at any object. The climate produces a languor, an indolence, and a dreaminess of mind, which are most unfavourable to topographical research, and which make one find more pleasure in the creations of his own fancy, than in any realities or novelties that may happen to lie within the sphere of his observation.

As yet I have not travelled more than six or seven hundred miles in India ; but the country through which I have passed has offered so few objects of interest or curiosity, that I feel no desire whatever to repeat or extend my journeyings. It is true, that Bombay is thought to be the least attractive of our Asiatic dependencies ; but I have been told by people who have traversed Bengal and Madras, that these provinces, though rich in cultivation and productions, are completely barren of novelty and variety. In speaking thus of India, however, I view it as it appears to people who seek for amusing scenes and incidents to beguile the way during a journey, and am not forgetful of the wide and exhaustless field for historical, antiquarian, and mythological

research which the country presents to the learned, studious, and patient inquirer. It is now my intention to sketch those scenes and objects only which meet the eye of a common observer while travelling in almost any part of our Asiatic dominions. Almost every thing I mean to describe fell under my notice while accompanying Major General Sir Lionel Smith, K.C.B. on his annual tour of military inspection and review through the Poona division of the Bombay army. As one party did not travel for pleasure alone, our route perhaps was not the most interesting that might have been selected, and I hope no one will suppose that I intend the ensuing sketches to be considered as a description of the Deckan, or even of any particular parts of it.

People usually commence their journey about an hour before sunrise. The cold then often seems very intense, though the thermometer seldom falls below 45° ; but in India the debilitating operation of constant heat renders the constitution extremely susceptible to

variations of temperature, and the breezes which precede the dawn at some seasons of the year feel more chilly and penetrating than a severe frost does in England. The mornings are in general rather dark, and an interesting phenomenon occurs in the eastern hemisphere a short time before sunrise. A flush of strong white light, like that of the aurora borealis, extends from the horizon a considerable way up the zenith, and so much resembles dawn, that the unexperienced traveller is always deceived by it. However, as he watches the luminousness, he sees it decrease instead of becoming more vivid, and at length totally disappear, leaving the heavens nearly as dark as ever. The real dawn, however, takes place very soon afterwards, and considerably longer before sunrise than in northern regions.

When daylight renders the face of the country visible, the traveller is struck with its solitary and deserted appearance. He perhaps rides several miles without seeing any houses, men, or cattle, or even the slightest traces of

cultivation. This is because all the Asiatics live in villages. In former times, personal security required that they should concentrate themselves within strong walls, the country being then subject to the incursions of the freebooting Pindarees, who used to lay waste their lands and carry off their property. Though the British government now sufficiently protects them from outrages of this kind, they still continue to live in communities, and a detached habitation is never to be met with any where. The cultivated land always lies near the villages, and when the traveller sees fields of grain, he may be confident that he is in the neighbourhood of one.

Few objects diversify the face of the country, barren plains, covered with small stones, extending in every direction to the horizon. Trees are very small and uncommon, and the only thing that deserves the name of vegetation, is a low stunted thorny brushwood, which grows chiefly in ravines and marshy spots, though it sometimes covers many acres of level ground. One may travel five or six miles through a tract

of this kind without meeting any living object ; but, in general, he will pass small parties of *coombies*, or labouring people, either wrapped in their blankets and shivering with cold, or crouching round a fire made of husks of Indian corn, and thrusting their hands and faces into the flames, or blowing upon the dying embers when they have exhausted their scanty supply of fuel. The Asiatics of the Deckan exhibit vivid pictures of poverty, though some writers have told us that this curse does not exist in India ; but the wretched-looking, half-clothed *coombies*, hastening to their daily and unproductive toils, are evidences to the contrary. Their condition calls for commiseration as strongly as that of the lower classes of any country in the world, and shews that the grand evil of life is not confined to any particular zone or latitude.

Barren as the Deckan is, some parts of it abound with game, the different kinds of which are among the most amusing objects that one sees during a morning journey. Flocks of deer frequently cross the road within a hundred

yards of the traveller, and either stop and gaze at him, or bound across the plains with astonishing velocity. Sometimes a couple of foxes will be seen reconnoitering from behind a rock, or stealing through a ravine, or sitting on a hill, conscious of security, and looking insolently around them. They are beautiful lively animals, being only half the size of the British species, and having bushy black tails, which they carry erect when pursued. The bustard, the first of game-birds, stalks through the solitary plains, and coveys of partridges and quails spring from the brushwood that skirts the roads. Sometimes a flock of culms will be seen hovering over head, or descending upon a field of grain. These birds are of the heron species, but considerably larger, and of a rich dark-blue colour. They fly very high, and in large flocks, usually disposing themselves in the form of an acute angle, the diverging sides of which wave in the air like pennants or streamers. Small green paroquets are always numerous near the villages, where they make such devastation in the grain that the people

find it necessary to keep watch in the fields, and to drive the birds away with a long rope tied to a bamboo. This they swing round with great dexterity, and the paroquets, being frightened by the noise, suddenly spring up in hundreds, and, as they take flight, flash in the sun like a shower of emeralds.

During the cold season in the Deckan, the mornings are delightful till about eight o'clock, the air soon after dawn becoming agreeably elastic, and so transparent, that distant objects appear very distinct and defined. Riding on horseback is then as pleasant as it is in the most temperate climates ; but when the sun has been more than two hours above the horizon, the heat and glare begin to be annoying, and usually make the traveller hurry towards his encamping ground.

The tents of a travelling party are always pitched near a village, for the convenience of procuring supplies for the table of the Europeans, and grain and fodder for their native attendants and their cattle. Almost every vil-

lage has some trees around it, and is situated on the bank of a river, or beside a tank, abundance of water being considered of such consequence by the Asiatics, that, in building their towns, they willingly sacrifice every other local advantage to secure it. The villages in the Deckan have nothing attractive in their appearance. Most of them are surrounded with high mud-walls raised upon stone foundations, and displaying numerous cavities, fissures, and dilapidations, and other marks of neglect and decay. Two gates, defended by bastions, form the only entrances into these fortified places ; but, I believe, the heavy teak-wood doors that still remain under the arched portals are scarcely ever closed in these peaceful times. Great numbers of oxen and some loitering *coombies* may usually be seen standing outside of the walls of a Mahratta village ; while the gaunt-looking Paria dogs stroll about, and bark violently at all strangers who approach. When a river is near, its banks are always crowded with men and women, some of whom are drawing water, some bathing, and

some washing their clothes, which they do by first dipping the garment in the stream, and then flogging the rocks with it, or beating it between two flat stones.

Nothing can exceed the aspect of misery and desolation that prevails in the interior of most Mahratta villages. The streets are narrow, dirty, and unpaved. The houses are built of mud, and have flat roofs of the same material, and the lowness of their walls, combined with the small dimensions of the windows and doors, make them resemble cellars or dungeons. Some of these habitations are in the form of a hollow quadrangle, one side of which serves as a stable for horses and oxen, while the three others are occupied by a family. On looking into a house, one usually sees a solitary individual sitting unoccupied on the floor with his eyes bent downwards. However, if it be evening, he may perhaps have a lamp beside him, and some cooking utensils, and his wife and children, or a few associates, as silent as himself. The bazaar is the only place where one sees any thing like

mirth or sociality, the shops there bringing together a considerable number of people, some of whom come to purchase provisions; and others apparently to observe what is going on. The native shops are small sheds on each side of the street, furnished with shelves for the display of the different commodities sold in them, and lighted up at night with two or three lamps. The various sorts of grain are exposed in baskets, in the midst of which the merchant sits cross-legged, and patiently awaits the arrival of his customers, who make their purchases with the greatest caution, and usually not till after a vast deal of wrangling has taken place on both sides. However, the village bazaars being on a small scale, display none of the bustle and variety that belong to similar places in Bombay and Poona.

A stranger should visit the Bombay bazaar in the evening. It is a street about half a mile long, with shops on each side throughout its whole extent. These are brilliantly lighted up at night, and one in strolling along may observe distinctly every thing that goes on in them.

He will here see a range of cloth-shops, full of native women examining the goods, disputing about their value, and urging the seller to lower his price. Then his attention will be drawn to the shed of a brass-manufacturer, where highly-polished jars of all sizes stand glittering in rows, and where the incessant hammering of the artificers drowns the voices of the crowds in their vicinity. On advancing a little farther, he will see a confectioner's shop hung with festoons of dried fruits and sweetmeats, and environed by crowds of children longing for the luxuries that are displayed before them. The next shed will be that of a vegetable merchant, who offers for sale the various edible productions of the east, from the pine-apple down to the common yam ; opposite him perhaps is the office of a shroff, or native banker, who sits at a table covered with gold, silver, and copper coins, and changes money at a small per centage. His scales and weights stand beside him, and he subjects to their test every piece of metal that is presented to him for negotiation. A dealer in grain next attracts the attention; the

back part of his shop is crowded with bags of rice, grain, maize, &c. and in front, samples of the different articles are exhibited in large baskets, from which he measures out the quantities required by his customers. A little way off will be a barber's shop full of people, and resounding with their voices and merriment. Its bustling possessor talks with volubility, and the pleased and attentive countenances of his auditors testify that he is a humorist and a storyteller. Meanwhile the street is crowded with men, women, and children, of different casts and complexions, and with donkies, oxen, and Paria dogs, the noise of whose united voices is deafening and incessant. Sometimes a Parsee drives furiously through the bazaar in a gig, and disturbs the loitering throng, and makes it open its ranks with sudden haste and alarm ; or a European in a palanquin, surrounded with panting *himmauls*, will force his way amidst the motley assemblage. The tumult of the whole scene not unfrequently receives some addition from the meeting and intermingling of two herds of bul-

locks, carrying bells upon their necks, and groaning under the blows inflicted by their irritated drivers ; and at this crisis, perhaps, a marriage-procession passes down the bazaar, accompanied by hosts of people bearing torches, and by a party of native musicians singing, and beating large drums and blowing horns. Things now reach an extremity which is insupportable to a European, and he must immediately take flight if he wishes to retain his senses and to preserve his hearing.

But I must return to our camp. The inhabitants of the villages, even in unfrequented parts of the country, shew little curiosity on seeing Europeans. The men gaze upon a stranger a short time, but never follow him, and the women turn away their heads when he approaches, and even cover their faces with part of their dress. The former, taken generally, are not a well-made people, and betray extreme imbecility in their looks and gestures. Most of the females have good figures, which are set off by their style of costume ; and even the lowest

casts display a gracefulness of action that never is to be found among women of inferior rank in Europe. The hardships to which the peasantry of northern climates are exposed destroy all personal beauty. The agricultural poor of Great Britain, taken generally, seem to be the most clumsy race of people in the whole world.

The villages seldom contain any interesting objects. In the centre of most of them is a square mud-fort, having a round tower at each corner, and ramparts inside, nearly level with the top of the walls, which are usually eighteen or twenty feet high. A structure of this kind used to serve as a citadel when an enemy forced the gates of a town,—the inhabitants, at such times, shutting themselves up in it with their cattle and property, and annoying the besiegers by firing and throwing stones upon them from the ramparts. These forts are now neglected and allowed to fall into decay.

Every village has a pagoda of some kind belonging to it. In the Deckan, however, most of these edifices are small and simple in their

architecture. Their common form is that of an octagon, with a dome-roof, and a minaret in front, the latter seldom exceeding thirty or forty feet in height. The god is an image of Gunputty, rudely carved in stone, and covered with red ochre. One does not often find priests in attendance, or devotees paying adoration at the shrine; and every thing shews that the people feel little respect for their religion, and that they neglect to cultivate its rites, or to maintain its institutions in their pristine splendour.

The traveller will in general derive little amusement from the objects in the vicinity of his encamping ground; and when breakfast is over, he will be at a loss how to employ himself during the day. The heat is usually very great in a tent, and occupation of any kind becomes laborious and harassing. No one, while on a march, can well engage in his favourite pursuits or avocations. The bustle of moving from place to place, and the personal disarrangements, and dissipation of mind arising from it, are all unfavourable to his doing so, even supposing he

should be able to command the means, which are seldom in his power. Books will often prove “ tedious friends and formal dulness,” and to pass the time, he must either sleep all day, or set out on a hunting or shooting excursion.

The shooting in India has no peculiarity, only the sportsman must be enthusiastically fond of the amusement, otherwise the violent heat will soon force him to quit the field. The kind of hunting most practised is the chase of the wild hog. This animal differs in several respects from the boars of Europe, being swifter and more fierce than they are, though not quite so large. It loves sugar-cane, India corn, &c. and is chiefly found near villages where these are cultivated. It takes refuge in the brushwood during the day, and issues forth at night to feed upon the grain.

The hunters, previous to their commencing the chase, send fifty or sixty people to drive the wild hogs from their cover into the open country, should there be any such in the neighbourhood. The beaters extend themselves into a large semi-

circle, and advance slowly, striking the bushes with sticks, and shouting, and sounding a drum. The animals, frightened by the tumult, run before them, and are generally at last forced into the plains. The moment this takes place, the hunters, who have been watching the event, gallop after them with long spears. These they either throw at the hogs, or strike into their bodies without letting go, whenever they can approach near enough to effect this. At first the hogs run so fast, that a tolerable horse cannot come up with them unless he is put to his speed ; and when they begin to grow tired, they wind about and manœuvre so much, that they often elude their pursuer for a very long time, or perhaps entirely, unless he be an expert rider and a practised sportsman. The hog is seldom killed by the first stroke of the spear, and usually charges the hunter immediately after receiving a wound ; and should the latter not be dexterous enough to evade the attack, he and his horse will have a chance of being thrown to the ground, and mangled by the infuriated animal's tusks.

In this the danger of the sport chiefly consists, and accidents of the kind daily occur ; however, fortunately, the horse is much oftener the sufferer than the rider, who generally contrives to keep the sow or boar at bay with his spear. The game, when killed, is considered the property of the person who first struck and wounded it, and is brought home by the beaters at the termination of the sport, and afterwards served up in various forms at the evening banquet of the fatigued hunting-party.

We had one very interesting day's sport in the course of our tour. Our whole party took the field, viz. Sir Lionel Smith, Colonel Cotton, aid-de-camp to his majesty, and commanding the Poona brigade ; Captain Keith, assistant adjutant-general of the division ; Captain Cocke, Persian interpreter ; Captain Smith, aid-de-camp to the major-general ; and myself. We started a number of hogs almost immediately ; and, as the ground was remarkably good, we could follow them to advantage. However, I was astonished at the rapidity with which they ran,

considering the shortness of their legs and the awkwardness of their forms, and amused with the art which they shewed in choosing their ground and in evading their pursuers. At first they ran at the height of their speed, without almost any attempts at manœuvring; but when they began to get a little fatigued, they resorted to various expedients to save their strength, and conducted their flight with much cunning and ingenuity. We soon divided into two parties. Colonel Cotton, Captain Keith, and myself, followed a remarkably large, swift, and ferocious hog, and had nearly exhausted our horses when he took refuge in the bed of a small river, and began to stand at bay, and to snort and erect his bristles. Captain Keith threw his spear, but it fell short of the animal, which immediately galloped off, though not so fast as before. Colonel Cotton now dashed forwards, and followed him closely up a narrow path, skirted on each side with thick brushwood. The hog, however, turned suddenly round, and charged his pursuer, and I began to entertain serious appre-

hensions about the safety of his majesty's aid-de-camp; but he dexterously received the infuriated animal on the point of his spear, which unfortunately came into contact with the hog's teeth, and the stroke consequently neither killed nor wounded him, as it doubtless would otherwise have done. Singular to relate, this boar, fatigued as he was, contrived to escape us all, and suddenly disappeared among some jungle, in which he remained, notwithstanding our efforts to force him into the open plain,

The chase of the wild hog is a brilliant and animating amusement, which is pursued with enthusiasm by most of the young military men in India. The danger that attends the sport often gives rise to feats of valour, and, in general, these are minutely recounted by the persons who perform them, particularly at the dinner that invariably succeeds a day's hunting. It is not a little amusing to listen to conversation of this kind. Every glass of beer that is drank gives birth to a narration of some new and extraordinary exploit. Every round that the

claret makes adds an inch to the length of the tusks of all the hogs killed that day ; and animals that had been speared and eaten months before, start into life again, charge their pursuers, rip up horses, and suddenly acquire enormous dimensions. The Asiatic spirit of exaggeration gets abroad, but every one listens to his companions with the utmost urbanity, and affects to believe all he hears, only that he may obtain the right of becoming the speaker in his turn, and of inflicting upon his neighbours as many extravagant and fictitious tales as they are in the act of inflicting upon himself.

People, while travelling in India, require to dine early, unless their domestic establishment be very large ; for it is necessary that the servants should set out in the evening, that they may have time to get the tents pitched, and to make breakfast ready before the party reach the encamping-ground next morning. The evenings are therefore very long, and in general pass rather heavily, even with those who resort for relief to that elegant time-killing Asiatic 'ap-

paratus called the hookah, which, however, is much less used on the Bombay side of India than in Bengal and Madras. It is the most refined and inoffensive mode of smoking that is practised any where. The form and construction of the instrument (which it would take too much time to describe) combine elegance, costliness, and beauty; and the smoke has in general such an agreeable perfume, that it can scarcely be annoying even to the most fastidious person. One who never had seen the hookah used might suppose that it would interrupt conversation very much; but I have not observed this, and rather believe that it has an exhilarating effect, and therefore an opposite tendency. However, a good deal depends upon the nature of the composition that is smoked. The best materials are Turkish tobacco, and the finer sorts of spices, but the native servants often add to these opium and other narcotics, which soon produce languor and drowsiness, and make their masters rather dull companions.

In general every thing is quiet in a camp at

an early hour in the evening. The natives lie asleep around their glimmering and expiring fires ; the camels and horses are stretched upon the ground, and all the villagers who have frequented the spot during the day have retired to their houses. The barking of Paria dogs, or the yelling of troops of jackalls, sometimes breaks the silence ; but these sounds are so common at night in India, that they occasion very little disturbance, and one may sleep without interruption till the servants are about to set out in advance with the tents and baggage. Then the noise of voices, the bustle of loading the cattle, the tinkling of the camel-bells, and the neighing of horses, mingle together, and continue without intermission till the whole travelling cavalcade has left the ground.

In India the military stations are very thinly scattered over the country, and one may travel a hundred miles and more without seeing a European of any description. Most of the outposts in the Bombay establishment are small ; but, though they afford little society, they are

not unpleasant places of residence, and the majority of people prefer them as such to the presidency itself. Their inhabitants exhibit almost the only examples I have seen of the members of small societies living in mutual harmony. They are in general liberal-minded, polished, well-informed, and hospitable, and receive strangers with kindness and confidence, instead of viewing them, as the Bombay people do, with jealousy and distrust. The person who wishes to see the society of the Bombay side of India to advantage, should visit the outposts of the establishment, and not the seat of government, the resident inhabitants of which afford rather unfair specimens of the state of manners and public feeling that prevail in most other parts of our Eastern dominions.

All the military stations have a similar appearance. The huts of the native soldiery are erected in lines at a little distance from the officers' houses, which, though always near to each other, are seldom disposed with any regularity. Each building is placed in the centre of a small

enclosed piece of ground, called a *compound*, part of which is occupied by the offices and part by the garden of its owner. The buildings are generally of mud, with brick foundations and thatched roofs, and have verandas in front. Some of these houses are handsomely furnished, and look both elegant and comfortable ; but the greater number, belonging to subalterns, resemble barns and stables, being without carpets on the floors, paint on the walls, or glass in the windows. The reason of this is, that the military cannot afford to spend much money in adorning their places of abode, in consequence of their having to move from one station to another every two years. They seldom are able to sell their houses for what they have cost, and often find it impossible to dispose of them at all.

The military stations in the Deckan are five, viz. Poona, Seroor, Ahrnednugger, Sattara, and Sholapoor. None of them have any natural peculiarities worth describing except Sattara, which is remarkable for the number of hill-forts

in its vicinity. These are formed upon high, steep, isolated hills, having flat tops, encircled by perpendicular ridges of rocks, upon which fortifications are erected. The Sattara hill-fort is about five hundred feet high. Its declivity forms an angle of 80° , till within thirty or forty feet of its top, when a range of perpendicular cliffs rise like a wall, and gird the entire circumference of the plain, which forms its summit. It can be ascended in one place only, by a narrow winding path cut in the rock. At the upper end of the path is a strong gate, through which one passes into the interior of the fortress, and, after mounting a flight of steps, finds himself on the top of the hill. The prospect there is among the finest I have seen in India. The native town and bazaar, and the houses of the cantonments, are scattered below the eye, and around them a vast plain, covered with beautiful clumps of trees, enlivened with herds of cattle, and glowing with cultivation, extends to the foot of different groups of wild and precipitous hills that rise at a distance. Small portions of

the glittering waters of the sacred river Krishna disclose themselves here and there, and the minarets of pagodas, situated upon its banks, project from the surrounding groves, from which wild and sonorous strains of native music may be heard issuing at intervals.

The top of Sattara hill-fort is nearly level, and is about one mile long and three quarters broad. The fortifications are neither high nor numerous, the natural strength of the place rendering constructions of the kind unnecessary. There are four tanks of water on the summit, several houses occupied by the natives in charge, and two small brick buildings on the edge of the ramparts, for the use of the European invalids of the cantonment, who not unfrequently reside in them when they require change of air. The most interesting place, however, is the palace, in which the Rajah of Sattara was confined by the British government after the subjugation of the Deckan. Its interior exhibits little regal magnificence, the apartments being low-roofed, gloomy, badly ventilated, and floored with mud.

It is a prison within a prison ; for escape from the fortress which contains it seems impossible. Confinement in a hill-fort is the most complete and secure that can be imagined ; and it at the same time has the guise of a degree of freedom about it, which must prove excessively tantalizing to the prisoner. He has the use of a large tract of ground, he sees the open sky above him, and feels its breezes ; he looks down upon a wide expanse of country, and daily contemplates beautiful scenery, and views men, animals, houses, and villages, and almost every thing which the surface of the earth presents to the observation of people enjoying perfect liberty, only he cannot come into contact with the objects, and this he perhaps never would care to do, were he free from personal restraint, or not aware that he was under it.

In travelling through the Deckan, one has no opportunity of seeing any natives of high rank, or of witnessing the novelties and splendours of an Eastern court. The pensions which the subdued Mahratta princes receive from the

Honourable East India Company are too small to admit of their living in a regal or even magnificent style. They now are as insignificant as they formerly were powerful, and have proportioned the number of their retainers and the style of their domestic establishments to the reduced state of their fortunes.

While we were at Sholapoor, a native of some wealth and consequence, named Dhooly Khaun, gave an evening entertainment in honour of Sir Lionel Smith. We went in the morning to pay our respects to our host; he received us in a spacious and handsome tent, the floor of which was laid with Persian carpets. The first salutations being over, he seated himself on a couch in the European mode, and requested the Major-general and Colonel Cotton to take their places on each side of him. The rest of the party sat on the ground, or on large cushions covered with crimson velvet. Very little conversation passed; and when we had remained about a quarter of an hour, Dhooly Khaun made a sign to one of his attendants, who immediately hand-

ed him a pretty large phial full of attar of roses. He now got up and walked round the circle, and as he passed along, requested each of his visitors to present his handkerchief, and then poured a considerable quantity of the fragrant essence upon it. All of us took leave after this ceremony; for a present of any kind, however trifling, given by a person of rank to his visitors, is understood and received by them as a hint that they may depart.

We returned to the tents of our native entertainer in the evening, and found a great many of the military men of the cantonment there. Dinner being announced, we sat down at table, and found a handsome repast upon it, served up partly in silver plate and partly china. The liquors, sauces, &c. were European, and Doohly Khaun asked his guests to take wine with him in the English way, and had nothing of the Mussulman about him, except a long beard and a peculiar dress. After the bottle had made a few circuits, it was announced that the *notch* girls were in readiness. On this the

whole party moved into an outer tent, and seated themselves in a semicircle in front of the female performers, who immediately commenced singing. A native stood behind them, and played an accompaniment upon an instrument similar in form and tone to a violin, and occasionally joined his own voice to the discordant harmony. The girls danced at the same time, but with such slow action, and such want of animation, as made their performance both tiresome and unmeaning. Their voices were disagreeably shrill and loud, and not more melodious than that of a common street ballad-singer; and I could not discover any thing like expression or cadence in the airs which they sung. The exhibition proved equally trying to the ears and to the patience, and I was glad to escape from it as soon as possible.

It will hardly be believed, that there are some Europeans in India who delight so much in the performance of the *notch* girls, that they have them in attendance two or three times a week, and listen to their singing for hours to-

gether without interruption. Most people on first hearing them are annoyed and distressed by their noise, and, in general, it is only after having run the gauntlet of several native concerts that a person, even without a musical ear, can patiently endure their attempts at harmony. Nevertheless, *notching* appears in some cases to possess peculiar fascinations. Of these, however, I rejoice to say that I have no perception; and I believe no man can be alive to them, unless he has resided many years in India, and discarded all European tastes, predilections, and associations.

The most interesting native spectacle that occurred in our march was one that I saw at a village called Jejoor, where there is a fine pagoda. The place is considered very sacred, and at particular seasons of the year the natives visit it in immense numbers, for the purpose of paying their devotions to the god. During our morning march to Jejoor, we passed several large parties of pilgrims, and on reaching our encampment, found that the ground in its vi-

cinity was covered with people, bullocks, horses, and small tents, all of which belonged to different families that had come from a distance.

Several religious processions passed near my tent in the course of the day. The finest was one which accompanied the car of a god, whom the Brahmins were bringing from a neighbouring village to visit the grand deity of Jejoor. Two men, carrying long poles, each with a series of flags of various colours upon it, led the way. They were followed by a bull, splendidly and fantastically caparisoned. His horns were gilt, and encircled with brass rings, and had large tufts of horse-hair tied to their extremities. Next came several people in white dresses, on which great quantities of the powder of a crimson-coloured ochre had been sprinkled. A band of native musicians succeeded them. It consisted of five persons, three of whom played instruments somewhat resembling the clarionet in shape and the bagpipe in sound; the fourth blew a very large semicircular brass horn, the tones of which were coarse, but indescribably

sonorous and powerful. His companion rode a bullock, having a drum swung on each side of it. The pitch of these was different, and he beat sometimes on both at the same time, and sometimes on one of the two alternately. The car containing the god was borne close behind, on the shoulders of six men. It was shaped like a canoe, and so completely veiled that its interior could not be seen. A crowd of people closed the procession, some carrying flags, and others beating small drums, and the whole of them joining in a loud shout at intervals.

In the evening, after sunset, I visited the pagoda with one of the staff. We proceeded through the village of Jejoor, and found its principal street almost entirely converted into a bazaar, to supply the demands of the vast concourse of strangers that had assembled in the neighbourhood. Cloth, fruit, different sorts of grain, vegetables, and jewellery and other ornaments, were exposed in the shops, most of which were thronged with purchasers. As we advanced to the foot of the hill the crowd increas-

ed, and almost every third person carried a flambeau mounted on a brass stalk. The heat, smoke, dust, and glare, were overpowering, and we would have hurried onwards at a rapid pace, had not the multitudes of devotees that were flocking to the pagoda rendered this impossible. We were therefore contented to follow the stream of people, till we reached the foot of the hill, which was about three hundred feet in height. We now began to ascend a succession of flights of very wide steps, partly cut out of the rock, and partly composed of separate flagstones. Between the different flights there were large level platforms, and five arched gateways, each about thirty feet high and twenty broad, and surmounted with a tower or minaret, stood at equal distances upon the declivity of the hill, and, as it were, divided the ascent to the pagoda into five stages. On gaining the top of the eminence, and the grand entrance to the temple, we stopped to observe the multitudes winding up the steep. They were of both sexes and of all ages, and walked chiefly in groups, holding each

other by the hand, and shouting forth invocations to their deity. The succession of people was uninterrupted from the beginning of the bazaar to the spot where we stood, and the glare of their innumerable torches so great, that the moon, though nearly full, added almost nothing to the brightness of the light, which shewed distinctly the features of every individual, and also the small niches, fret-work, and *alto relievos*, that adorned the pagoda and its series of gateways. The streets of the village glittered with flambeaux, and the ground around it was thickly studded with the night-fires of the pilgrims who had encamped there; and beyond them lay a large extent of silent and desolate country, on which the moonbeams, unadulterated by the admixture of artificial light, fell with their natural softness and purity.

We now ascended a narrow staircase, arched over and very dark, and then suddenly emerged into an octagonal court, surrounded by ranges of beautiful piazzas. In its centre stood the pagoda, amidst the blaze of hundreds of torches,

and surrounded by multitudes of devotees. A band of music paraded round it, and on a small building, on one side, the clashing of cymbals and the thunders of two immense drums issued with deafening and incessant vibrations. It was impossible to distinguish a word that was spoken. We mounted the steps at the door of the temple, and were about to enter, when two Brahmins waved us back with vehement gestures, and said that we could not be admitted into the presence of the god. They told us, however, that we might have a view of him from the spot where we stood, and ordered the crowd to move to one side. On looking in I saw a low-roofed apartment, about thirty feet long, and supported by two ranges of stone pillars. It was full of people, most of whom carried torches, the smoke of which produced a lurid obscurity in the air, that harmonized well with the sacredness of the place, and the mysterious institutes of the religion to which it was dedicated. The devotees formed themselves into two lines, and thus enabled us to catch a glimpse of their deity,

who occupied a small chamber at the bottom of the apartment. I saw a lustre like that of gems and gold, but could not distinguish either his features or form, in consequence of the haziness of the atmosphere around us.

The scenes which I have described continued nearly all night. There was a constant succession of pilgrims during the whole evening ; and long after I went to rest I heard the deep tone of the drums on the top of the hill, mingling with the shouts of the devotees who were ascending its sides. It is only at particular seasons of the year, called Jitturahs, that pilgrims come to Jejoor in such numbers ; and at these times the Brahmins of the place lay them under contribution, and collect large sums of money for the use of the god.

One may travel in the Deckan for weeks together without seeing any place so interesting as Jejoor. To make a journey there, or, I believe, in any other part of India, at all agreeable, it is necessary to have companions ; for otherwise the unemployed days, and the succeed-

ing gloomy evenings, instead of being seasons of rest and recreation, will prove as fatiguing as the longest rides in the meridian sun. In India change of place does not often bring change of objects, and the traveller, each day, on accomplishing his morning journey, sees the dusty ruinous village, the muddy tank, and the paltry pagoda, present themselves in a style of monotonous sameness, that disappoints his eye more than the absence of all local scenery whatever.

Between Bombay and Ahmednuggur, a distance of one hundred and forty miles, there are bungalows, at regular distances from each other, for the accommodation of travellers. These, which were erected at the expense of government, prove a great convenience, by rendering tents unnecessary, and affording cool and comfortable resting-houses, in which people may take their meals and repose themselves. It is only at places of this kind that travellers have an opportunity of coming into contact with each other as in the inns in Europe, and of meeting new characters and interesting table-companions.

In India acquaintances are formed almost instantaneously. Almost every one knows who and what another is ; and though he does not, he feels safe in associating with him, whenever he ascertains that he is in the Company's service ; all persons belonging to which being, by repute at least, gentlemen. These rencounters are the most agreeable incidents that occur during a journey, and often form the foundation of durable friendship or lasting intimacies.

The road between Bombay and Poona and Ahmednuggur, where the bungalows are, is probably more frequented than any other on the same side of India. It is constantly crowded with large droves of bullocks and country ponies, conveying supplies to the different out-stations ; and the dust, obstruction, and annoyance, which these animals create, form not the least of the miseries to which the traveller in Asia is exposed, particularly if he performs his journey on horseback. However, in this part of the country he will observe a considerable number of trees, and some rather pleasing scenery, and en-

joy the advantage of good roads, which he will value more than the loveliness of nature in a climate where, as long as there is light enough to see any thing, the most pleasant view is the interior of a cool apartment.

The sketch now given of travelling in India will, I am afraid, appear rather meagre and unsatisfactory to most readers ; but I have found some difficulty in writing even thus much upon the subject. All the journeys I have hitherto made have been vapid, monotonous, and barren of incident. I suspect that the climate of Asia is fatal to liveliness and acuteness of observation, and to the faculty of extracting the agreeable and amusing from common events and things. There no object suggests any ideas that do not inherently and intrinsically belong to it. This appears in the books that have been written upon India by its European residents. They are notorious for being devoid of general interest, and are usually regarded as almost unreadable by the British public, who give much more attention to works upon even the most obscure and

useless of our colonial dominions. Indeed, the indifference which the majority of people at home manifest towards India seems rather difficult to account for, when one considers that there is scarcely a family in the middle classes that has not some connexion, friend, or relation, residing in the country.

The dulness of travelling in India does not prevent people from voluntarily undertaking long journeys, which owe their agreeableness to the exercise and change of climate that attend them. The mind and the constitution require some stimulus of this kind, both being liable to suffer from want of action. Nothing can be more spiritless and unvaried than the life of Europeans at out-stations, in so far as regards the enjoyment of society and enlivening amusements. To them every day is precisely alike; and their energies would altogether forsake them, were not they occasionally called into service by change of abode, or by the temporary excitement of a journey. People are almost always in good health when on a march, although

they may complain much of its tiresomeness and of the inconveniences to which it subjects them. The system which prevails in India, of moving the native regiments every two years, though sometimes annoying to the officers, and often injurious to their pecuniary interests, is, I believe, extremely beneficial, in so far as it operates upon their spirits and constitutions.

A man, to travel with pleasure and interest in India, should never have visited any other country ; for the novelty of traversing a foreign land may then render him insensible to the want of those engrossing objects of curiosity and attention which every one expects to meet with in a region, whose climate, productions, and people, are totally different from any thing of the kind he has known at home ; or, at least, he ought to make himself well acquainted with the history, antiquities, language, and manners of the Asiatics, that he may derive that amusement from researches into the past, which present and existing things will fail to afford him. India, to the unlearned traveller, is like what an oriental

manuscript without plates or illustrations is to a child: he does not understand what he sees, and seeks in vain for objects of external beauty and interest to console him for his ignorance.

**TWO DAYS AT THE CAPE
OF GOOD HOPE.**

TWO DAYS AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

AFTER having been eleven weeks at sea, we discerned the Table Land of the Cape of Good Hope, forty-five miles distant. The mountain was at first like a shadow on the horizon ; but as we approached it gradually assumed the form of an immense truncated cone, which appeared to flit, with spectral grandeur, among the volumes of clouds and mist that rolled around it. The neighbouring mountains slowly became visible, but they appeared insignificant ; and, if the eye happened to rest upon them, it was but for the purpose of contrasting their magnitude

with that of Table Land, which, as it projected amidst them, seemed like the guardian fortress of the coast of Africa.

On a beautiful calm morning we found ourselves lying within a few miles of the shore, and directly in front of Table Mountain, the summit of which was enveloped in a thick cloud of dazzling whiteness. The long ranges of minor hills, that extended to the right and left, were likewise hid by dense mists. When the sun had attained a certain elevation, the fleecy mass that hung upon Table Land began to disunite in several places, and pinnacles of rock, mellowed into softness by the radiance of day, became visible through the chasms. Portions of cloud then separated themselves, at short intervals, from the main body, and moved slowly and majestically away; some, after rolling a considerable way down the mountain, remained stationary on its sides; other fragments sailed off in a horizontal direction, and hung suspended over the neighbouring ravines and valleys, and one beautiful wreath ascended steadily into the

heavens, and, gradually losing its density, became like a drapery of net-work floating over a ground of ethereal blue. The whole of Table Land was at length completely unveiled. An awful stillness appeared to prevail around its barren cliff-girt summit, and a sympathetic feeling of solemn composure, such as I never before experienced, stole over my mind while I viewed it. The mighty precipices that rose abruptly before me,—the vast fragments of stone that had once bounded down the mountain's steep declivity,—the gulf-like ravines that entrenched its grey storm-beaten sides,—its wild, barren, and treeless outline, and the uninvaded solitariness of its stern and majestic brow, had nothing fearful, nothing repulsive in their aspects. An expression of calm magnificence, of religious veneration, and of devotional composure, pervaded the scene, and my mind felt and acknowledged their tranquillizing influence.

The mists that shrouded the mountains around Table Land soon yielded to the influence of the sun, and rolled away. Their volumes,

while dispersing, were continually opening and reclosing in the most unexpected and fantastic manner. At one time the pinnacle of a hill, illuminated by sunshine, would be unveiled for a few moments, and at another a range of gloomy black cliffs would start from concealment, and then, with a frown, disappear again amidst the mantling obscurity. Rocks, valleys, chasms, and green declivities, seemed, by turns, to be called into transient existence by some capricious spirit, and to be afterwards suddenly annihilated, as if in mockery of those objects which men are taught to consider stable and permanent. About noon every streak of vapour had disappeared, and the coast of Africa lay before us in all its sublimity.

Never was there a scene of greater beauty or of more majestic repose. Long ridges of mountains, of every diversity of form, and gently undulating into each other, lay basking in the radiance of a cloudless sky. Their bases were indented by numerous bays and inlets, on the rocky shores of which we could discern the lit-

tle billows breaking and sparkling in the sun. Some of the least elevated of the hills had verdure upon their declivities; but the higher ones were masses of barren rock, and behind them blue peaks were to be seen rising as far as the eye could reach. The deepest silence prevailed, and nothing living, or indicative of the presence of life, could be discerned. The Cape pigeons, that usually fluttered around the ship, had dropped upon the bosom of the calm sea,—the breeze was so faint as scarcely to shake the sails,—not a cloud moved along the face of heaven, but a smile of glory and of grandeur glowed over every thing, and the eye did not wander in quest of animated objects, the scene being replete with an intelligence more sublime and affecting than their presence could have diffused over it.

After being becalmed on the coast for nearly three days, we entered Table Bay one evening at sunset. The first view of Cape Town is pleasing and picturesque, from the regularity

and neatness of the streets and buildings, and from the singular manner in which it is sheltered on three sides by Table Mountain and the neighbouring hills. The bay, though extensive, and affording good anchorage, is dangerous for shipping during the winter season, on account of the north-west winds, which often blow with tremendous violence. The beach afforded us sufficient proof of this; for eight vessels that had been driven on shore by a gale only a fortnight before lay in view, and excited rather uncomfortable sensations, when we reflected that our bark might perhaps share the same fate ere the lapse of many days.

I went on shore very soon after we had dropped anchor, though it was nearly dark when I got into the boat, and though the evening threatened to be a rainy and tempestuous one. However, the desire of treading on firm ground, after a voyage of eleven weeks' duration, and the animating idea of landing on the continent of Africa, rendered me indifferent to these un-

favourable prognostics, and I set sail, and reached Cape Town in safety, and immediately took up my quarters in a boarding-house.

The stranger, in strolling through Cape Town, will not meet with any remarkable object. The houses present a mixture of Dutch, English, and West-Indian architecture, and appear generally to be spacious and comfortable. The shops are British in every thing but the prices of the articles which they contain. In front of the town there is a beautiful and extensive parade-ground, which a military band enlivens with its harmony every evening; however, the music does not attract many auditors except on Sundays. Then an interesting assemblage of different tribes and nations takes place; for probably more varieties of the human species reside within the precincts of Cape Town than upon any other spot of similar dimensions in the world. The ships, which touch at the fort almost weekly, bring a constant influx of strangers, and the place is generally crowded with

Indians in bad health, who have come to it for change of climate:

All such persons, and many more, usually congregate on the parade on a Sunday evening. One may then see the British resident merchant strolling about, and deporting himself as if he honoured Cape Town by making it his place of abode. The Dutch Mynheer, with his self-complacent wife and daughters,—the Englishman bound for the East, bearing the gloss of fashion and of town life in his appearance,—the bilious Bombay civilian, with his lemon complexion, antediluvian-looking blue coat, and languid and inane countenance,—the Madras lieutenant, having his stockings hanging over his dusty shoes, and the few buttons that remain on his regimental jacket dangling by threads about three inches from the cloth to which they were originally attached,—the Bengal assistant-surgeon, with his fists in his pockets, and habited in a dress half military half civilian,—and the king's officer, known at once

by his well-made uniform and military deportment.

Mingled with the European part of the group are Hottentots, Caffres, Malays, negroes, mulattoes, Hindoos, Portuguese, Lascars, and the various mongrel breeds of human creatures that result from the indiscriminate intercourse of the different tribes above enumerated.

A tract of ground, called the governor's gardens, lies in the immediate vicinity of Cape Town. This was formerly kept in order at the expense of the East India Company ; however, Lord Somerset has now converted the greater part of it into a farm, on the produce of which he feeds his horses, and no vestige of ornamental horticulture remains, except one long gravel-walk, pleasantly shaded with large trees, which forms a place of public resort in the summer evenings. At one end of it there is a menagerie, containing four lions, a lioness, a Bengal tiger, and several other animals of minor importance. The size of their cages is such as affords them sufficient room for exercise, and even for running

and leaping; and, consequently, they have a very different appearance from those animals of the same species that are exhibited in England, being active, well grown, and in high condition. One lion is so old that his hairs are grey, and so feeble and emaciated that he can hardly walk. He is in a den with four others, but seems to avoid their society, and to court solitude as much as possible. I thought him the most interesting of the whole group, both from the intellectual expression of his countenance, and from the idea I had that his increasing infirmities filled his mind with shame and regret, and that he separated himself from his youthful and vigorous associates, because their presence forced upon his recollection a sense of his own weakness and declining strength.

Two very fine land-tortoises go at large in a field near the menagerie. They are quite harmless, though amazingly strong. I stood upon the back of one of them, with another person, for some time, but the unwieldy animal did not appear to be at all incommoded by our weight,

and moved onwards at its usual pace. Tortoises might probably be trained to carry heavy articles ; and they would prove very useful when the distance was short, and expedition not necessary, for they would scarcely travel faster than one mile and a half in an hour.

After having been a few days in Cape Town, I ascended Table Mountain, accompanied by one of my fellow-passengers. We set out on foot at sunrise, with a negro guide carrying a basket of provisions. For a mile and a half the road was neither steep nor fatiguing ; but it soon changed its character, and became so slippery, and so full of obstructions, that we found ourselves obliged to stop and contemplate the prospect beneath oftener than our love of the picturesque would otherwise have prompted us to do. The sun being unclouded, the heat was excessive, for not a breath of wind stirred the air. Our road had hitherto wound along the declivity of the mountain ; but we now came to the foot of a range of perpendicular cliffs about 600 feet high, in which there was an immense

chasm, wide at its mouth, but gradually narrowing towards its termination. Before entering between the precipices, we rested and viewed the prospect beneath us. The streets of Cape Town, above which we were elevated upwards of three thousand feet, appeared like white streaks, and no moving object was discoverable in any part of them; but a thin stratum of smoke hung over the houses, and made things more indistinct than they would otherwise have been. Table Bay lay immediately under us, and reflected the clouds and sky so much, that a most extraordinary illusion was produced; and it seemed as if the images which I saw pictured in its bosom were real clouds, and that the Bay actually lay beneath them, and was concealed from view by their intervention. The ships consequently seemed suspended in the air between two strata of clouds, while the water in which they floated had the appearance of a vast plate of glass interposed between two firmaments that were exact prototypes of each other. The bases of the ridges of hills which encircled the

bay were completely enveloped in clouds ; but their rocky pinnacles projected into the clear sunshine above, and resembled golden-soiled islands emerging from an ocean of snow-white vapour, over which the prismatic colours flitted with changing brightness, as if uncertain where they would descend or what spot they would illumine and adorn. The volumes of clouds were continually varying their distribution, and creating and disclosing new combinations of mountain-scenery ; and the whole panorama displayed such a mixture of substance and shadow, of reality and deception, and of change and stability, that the mind, absorbed in delight and astonishment, lost its powers of discrimination, and forgot what part of the pageantry would remain, and what part would pass away.

We now entered the chasm, and proceeded along the bottom of it, tremendous cliffs overhanging us on each side. As we advanced within the rocky abyss, the prospect which its mouth afforded gradually narrowed, and we felt as if we were bidding adieu to the world.

When we looked back we saw two terrific precipices diverging into a wide outlet, and through this had an imperfect view of a confused assemblage of rolling clouds, and mountain tops stretching to the horizon. Profound silence reigned around us, and birds, insects, and every indication of animal life, had disappeared. There was nothing agreeable in this part of the scene, and we hurried on, although our path was steep almost to perpendicularity, and gained the summit of the mountain after three hours of intolerable fatigue.

The top of Table Land is nearly level, and appears to be about one mile and a quarter long, and half a mile in breadth. The surface consists chiefly of rock, but in some places there are thick layers of a black mould resembling decayed vegetable remains. It was among this that the stock of an anchor was once discovered half under ground. A circumstance so extraordinary gave rise to much speculation and astonishment at the time it occurred ; and Barrow, the traveller, who visited the spot soon afterwards, theo-

rized at considerable length upon the subject. However, the matter was eventually explained to the satisfaction of every one. It appeared that a party of young men had, in a frolic, carried the stock of the anchor to the top of the mountain, either for the purpose of deciding a bet, or with the intention of perplexing and misleading those scientific travellers who might subsequently ascend Table Land. If they had merely the latter object in view, they doubtless had frequent reason to congratulate themselves on their success; for it is well known that theories, both geological and antiquarian, have been founded upon deceptions even less artful than the one now alluded to.

We found the prospect from the top of Table Mountain very similar to that which we had contemplated when at the bottom of the precipice, only the different objects were more defined and distinct, and this circumstance detracted considerably from the grandeur and effect of the whole scene. The cool and invigorating breezes which we enjoyed in our elevated situation soon

dispelled our fatigue, and we strolled about with elastic steps for more than an hour, and then set out on our descent, and reached Cape Town just as a thick cloud began to overshadow the greater part of the mountain.

My next excursion was to the two farms of Constantia, where the celebrated wine of that name is made. On my way there I had a glance of the country in the vicinity of Cape Town, and found its aspect very different from what I had anticipated. Instead of that glow of fertility and luxuriance of vegetation which is associated in the mind with the idea of a tropical region, I everywhere saw a bleakness, chillness, and barrenness of surface, that forcibly reminded me of the most muirland parts of Scotland. All the natural wood appeared to be scraggy stunted pine; and the miserable shrubs, and coarse grass that scantily covered the ground, proved how poor the soil was.

The farms of Constantia have the same appearance as other cultivated spots in their neighbourhood, though they alone produce the grapes

to whose delicious essence they owe their celebrity. The proprietor of Little Constantia informed me, that he had marked off that part of his domain which produces the peculiar grape from which the wine is made; and that vines, planted only a few feet beyond the boundary-line, yielded a very different and inferior sort of fruit. It would be desirable to analyze the soil of these farms; for the richness and exquisite flavour of the Constantia grapes must altogether depend upon some peculiarity in its composition, as, from the limited extent of the farms, it is impossible that there can be any variety of climate upon them.

The proprietor of Little Constantia is a Dutchman, and has a handsome house upon his estate, which, though small, yields him a larger revenue, I believe, than any agricultural territory of similar extent in Europe. His cellar is one hundred and forty feet long, and a range of immense casks, all of which are full of wine every vintage, occupies each side of it. Here we drank the liquor in purity and perfection;

but it was so rich that I could hardly finish the second glassful. However, the wine reserved for visitors is, I suspect, treated with particular care, and made from picked grapes; for both on the voyage to Bombay, and after my arrival there, I drank Constantia that had been purchased at the time I visited the farm, and found it totally inferior, in point of flavour and mellowness, to what I had formerly tasted in the Dutchman's cellars.

The only other wines made in large quantities at the Cape of Good Hope, are the Madeira, of which so much has lately been imported into England, and that called tinta. The former tastes much better at the Cape than any where else, it being procurable there in an unadulterated state; but, at best, it is a poor, chilly, flavourless liquor, which the utmost art of our wine-manufacturers will, I suspect, fail to render acceptable to a British palate.

A few days after my visit to Constantia, I saw the troops pass in review before Lord Somerset on the parade. The mere military

part of the spectacle had nothing remarkable in it, the effect of the whole depending upon the peculiarity and grandeur of the adjacent scenery. The sun shone brilliantly, the regiments were in beautiful order, the ground was crowded with the motley population of Cape Town, and Lord Somerset and his staff rode rapidly along the lines amidst the contending sounds of two military bands. The mixture of pomp, activity, bustle, and confusion, which the parade-ground exhibited, had a most imposing and spirit-stirring effect ; but when I turned to the contemplation of Table Mountain, and beheld it crowned with clouds, and solemnly overshadowing the transient pageantry going on below,—when I marked its stern and unchanging lineaments, and looked back on the thousands of years during which it had formed a standard for the clouds of heaven to rally round, and withstood the combined assailment of the rains, the tropical heat, the lightning, and the tempest, and then cast my eyes on the busy multitudes that encircled me, a painful sense of our insignificance filled my breast, and I felt as

if we had all dwindled into mere ephemerals, and as if the exhibition before us had something Lilliputian in its character. There appeared a humiliating want of permanency and stability in the things going on around me. I became dissatisfied with the transitoriness of the human species, and with the shortness and uncertainty of our earthly career, and could not help exclaiming, in the words used by Xerxes when viewing his immense army, "Alas ! not one of the individuals now present will be alive one hundred years hence !"

The day that intervened between the reviews and my departure from the Cape was rainy and tempestuous. The time passed heavily enough ; for I found it impossible to go out, and could not devise much amusement for myself within doors. During bad weather, a boarding-house is little better than an inn, unless the company are sociably inclined, and capable of contributing to each other's amusement. This was not the case in the present instance ; and as I watched our vessel tossing about, and mounting the

angry surges that were forced into Table Bay by a strong north-wester, I wished myself on board of her again, and in the middle of the ocean.

Cape Town is far from being an amusing place, although it usually contains a great number of strangers; but most of these being passengers belonging to ships that are merely touching at the port, they feel themselves brought there and detained against their inclinations; and the discontent and impatience produced by this circumstance make them irritable and tiresome companions. The Company's officers, who resort to the Cape for change of climate, appear to add little to the gayety of the town; but an effect of this kind is not to be expected from sick people of any description, and least of all from sick Indians, who are the most unenergetic beings in the world, and look as if they kept alive merely because they would not be at the trouble of dying.

**A VOYAGE FROM HAVANA TO
NEW PROVIDENCE.**

A VOYAGE FROM HAVANA TO NEW PROVIDENCE.

I HAD waited a considerable time in Havana, in the expectation of finding a vessel about to sail for England. Seeing that there was no prospect of this, I embarked in a sloop bound for New Providence, having previously learned that a London ship was lying there. A few weeks' residence in any one place, even under painful circumstances, has generally created within me some pleasing associations connected with the spot, and made me feel a sensation approximating to regret when in the act of quitting it for ever. But I experienced no emotions of

the kind on leaving Havana ; and as we sailed down the harbour, turned with delight and self-gratulation from the view of its receding walls, within which were concentrated, as appears to me, all the odious and revolting peculiarities of tropical life and of tropical climate.

The prospect which the open sea afforded was rather a disagreeable one, for the waves ran very high, and a strong head-wind prevailed. However, we soon rounded the Morro Castle, and began to beat to the northward amidst such a heavy swell, that, in half an hour, a violent fit of sickness laid me prostrate upon the deck. I had little perception of any thing till next morning. I then found the sea comparatively calm, and the weather moderate ; and these favourable appearances induced me to go upon deck and look at my fellow-passengers, who consisted of an American merchant and three Spanish pilots. The former was a lively person, combining many of the characteristics of his countrymen with a very jovial disposition. He walked about almost incessantly, and made it a

practice, when he observed any one musing, to tap him on the shoulder, and cry, “ Don’t think,—never think,—what’s the use of thinking in such a world as this ? I never think, and you see how happy I am.”

The sloop was only seventy tons burthen ; and her commander presented a fair specimen of the class of seafaring men to which he belonged. The masters of coasters are usually a base race of people ; for they spend too little of their lives at sea to acquire the sincerity and simple-heartedness of professional sailors, and too little on shore to have their characters ameliorated by intercourse with society. Their mercantile transactions and speculations being often of an illegal description, and yielding small and uncertain profits, fail to be productive, unless they are warily, craftily, and even fraudulently managed ; and the persons engaged in them thus gradually acquire grovelling habits and propensities, which influence their feelings and conduct on all occasions.

Next day, fair winds and fine weather tend-

ed to reconcile me a little to the miserable accommodations which the sloop afforded ; and the monotony of a sea-prospect was sometimes enlivened by the appearance of these small rocky islands which are scattered over the Bahama banks, and which the Spaniards call *Cayos*. Though entirely destitute of verdure, they have something beautiful and picturesque about them during bright weather, when the ocean is calm as a lake, and flames with the reflection of the setting sun. The abruptness of their rocky outlines is mellowed by the radiance which falls upon them, and the emerald sea, sparkling round their bases with gentle undulations, forms a fine contrast with the quietness, inflexibility, and adamantine repose, which are their characterizing aspects. A desolate rock in the middle of the ocean, suggests a more vivid idea of solitude than almost any other object ; yet the impression is not of a gloomy kind ; for the openness and extent of the surrounding expanse of water, and the barrier it presents to the ingress of causes of external

danger, appear to indicate a cheerful and safe seclusion. Indeed, some of the *Cayos* looked so sunny and inviting, that I would gladly have landed upon them, even at the risk of encountering the terrible spirits that haunted and held converse with the "Pirate," Clement Cleveland, during the time he sojourned on the isolated rock in the middle of the Bahama seas.

Though the navigation is intricate and dangerous here, we had more reason to fear Florida pirates than rocks and shoals. The former abound in the Bahama seas, which present a safe and fine field for depredation, the water being too shallow to admit the passage of any but small vessels, which are easily overpowered and plundered. Little is known about these marauders, except that they consist chiefly of negroes and people of colour, and are sometimes very cruel and desperate; but we must not believe that they cut off people's heads, and hang their mangled limbs upon the rigging, by way of amusement, as has often been asserted in

the American newspapers. I have conversed with several shipmasters whose vessels had been boarded by them, and they almost all gave testimony to the politeness and moderation of the pirate-captains, who never offered either violence or insult, provided their requisitions were readily complied with. They generally demanded the manifest of the cargo, and after reading it, pointed out the articles they wanted, and ordered them to be put in their boat, and then went peaceably away.

The pirate-cruisers are usually fine fast-sailing schooners, of from seventy to one hundred tons burthen, well manned, and armed with small guns. Vessels of this kind may at all times be bought at a low rate in the ports of the West India islands, where they are perhaps offered for sale by people to whom they do not belong, but who, having been intrusted with the command of them by their owners, have run away with cargo and schooner, and gladly take the earliest opportunity of disposing of both, in order to avoid pursuit and detection. In this

manner, pirate-captains manage to provide themselves with vessels at little expense, and without going through those formalities of sale which might expose them to observation and to troublesome inquiries. The vessels thus obtained sometimes happen to be fitted up in a style that is ludicrously at variance with the habits and ideas of those who command them. I have heard of convex mirrors, gilded panellings, and ottomans, forming the decorations of a cabin that was occupied by an outlawed and runaway negro.

The following anecdotes, which I collected while in the United States and at Havana, will serve to shew that some of the Florida pirates are not destitute of generosity, or of that wild spirit of enterprise which characterized the bucaniers of former days.

A small American brig, commanded by Captain Smychton, and bound for Jamaica, fell in with a pirate-schooner off the coast of Cuba. The brig's crew did not exceed seven in number, and therefore resistance was useless, as her

assailant mustered forty or fifty men, and had a swivel-gun, besides small arms. The former was therefore at once boarded by the negroes, who were proceeding to transfer part of her cargo to their own vessel, when Captain S. recognised their leader as having once acted as ship-steward under his command. The pirate did not hesitate to acknowledge the circumstance, and immediately ordered his crew to desist from plundering, and to return quietly on board the schooner. They murmured at this, declaring that it was contrary to the agreement they had made with him on entering his service. But he persisted ; and at length a mutiny took place, and they attacked the American crew, and soon succeeded in binding and disarming them, though not before Captain S., aided by his pirate-friend, had wounded two of the negroes. The two commanders were now in momentary expectation of being put to death ; however, the blacks, after deliberating for some time, let down the brig's jolly-boat, and ordered them to embark without delay, and to row away out of

sight as fast as possible. Captain S. and his guardian steward did not attempt to resist complying with this tyrannical measure, but immediately got on board, and began to work their oars vigorously ; for, on looking back, they saw three muskets pointed at them, as indicative of the reception they were to expect if they offered to return to the brig or schooner.

All this occurred about mid-day. When they had got about three miles distant from the vessels, they saw both get under weigh and put out to sea, though they could not discover what arrangements had previously taken place between their respective crews in order to accomplish this. They now for the first time entered into conversation. Captain S. felt rather uncomfortable when he reflected that he had been the cause of his companion's misfortune, and began to fear that the generous feeling which the black hero had at first displayed towards him would soon be converted into hostility and rage. However, he was mistaken ; for the negro, after expressing a violent degree of resentment against his crew,

told the captain to have no fears for his safety, as he would, in the course of the night, land him on the coast of Cuba, which was then in sight ; and added, that as he had formerly treated him well when under his command, he would shew himself sensible of this, by assisting and protecting him to the utmost of his power.

After a night of hard and constant rowing they gained a solitary part of the shore of Cuba, and immediately disembarked. The pirate-chief having moored the boat, proceeded in silence up a dark and rocky ravine, full of brushwood, and unmarked by any path-way. He seemed, however, to be well acquainted with the spot; and hurried on so fast that his companion could scarcely keep pace with him. They at length saw a light glimmering at a little distance, on which the negro immediately whistled, and in a few moments after they were close beside some huts of the most simple construction and meanest appearance. Captain S. entered one of them with his guide, and to his astonishment saw two negro women, several men, and some children,

all of whom hastened to meet and welcome the latter, whose arrival was evidently unexpected. The pirate having held some conversation with the party, in a language which his guest did not understand, the two females set about preparing a repast. "One of these women," said the negro, "is my wife; I live here when not at sea,—I have merchandise and money in these huts; but this place is so secret, that were you now on the sea-shore, you could not find your way to it without a guide." They soon seated themselves at table, and had a comfortable meal placed before them. Captain S. observed, that though the parties were perfectly civil to him, their behaviour was without obsequiousness, embarrassment, or timidity, and that, if they had once known slavery, they had effectually cast off its degradations. The meal being concluded, the pirate shewed his guest where he was to sleep, and left him alone. However, he roused him before dawn, and conducted him to the beach, where two mules were standing saddled, with a negro in charge of them. "This

man," said the pirate, " will conduct you through the woods to a small town, twenty miles distant, where you will find means of proceeding wherever you choose. You must pass him off as your servant. I know you have lost every thing. Take this to assist you." So saying, he put a small bag of dollars into Captain S.'s hand, and was out of sight in a moment. The former mounted his mule, and, after a fatiguing journey through almost impassable thickets, reached his place of destination late in the evening. When about to part from his attendant, he offered him some money, but the man refused it, and went off immediately. Captain S. never afterwards saw or heard of his pirate-friend; but was led to believe, from some circumstances that came to his knowledge, that he was apprehended at sea, and executed in the United States, about a year and a half subsequent to the events above related.

The Spanish government have lately endeavoured to form settlements on the shores of Cuba, by offering a certain quantity of uncultivated

land to all foreigners who are willing to emigrate to the West Indies. Some years ago, a Frenchman, from the southern states of America, made a plantation on the coast of the island. He had fifteen or sixteen negroes, and these he employed in raising tobacco ; but was so severe a taskmaster, that his slaves hated him, and were discontented and unhappy. The country around his estate being very wild, and totally without population, they never tried to escape, because they knew that they would in all probability perish in the woods while making the attempt. However, after some time, two negroes suddenly disappeared. The strictest search proved unavailing, and their owner was unable to trace them a single step beyond his plantations. In the course of the week several more were missing in the same inexplicable way ; and the Frenchman began to suspect that those who remained with him were accessory to the escape of the fugitives. The former, however, would not confess any thing, although urged by threats, and afterwards punished in the severest manner.

All this seemed merely to accelerate what it was intended to prevent. The slaves went off daily, till only a few of the weakest and oldest remained. The planter found himself on the brink of ruin, being unable to cultivate his estate from the want of negroes, and without money to purchase a new supply. His house was situated on the bank of a small river, which was navigable for light boats from its mouth upwards as far as his plantation. One night, after he had gone to bed, he heard the noise of oars, and on looking out, saw a boat full of men approaching. He had scarcely time to imagine who they were, before they leaped on shore, and seized and bound him, and then proceeded to his house and stores, and laid hold of every thing that was valuable, and carried their booty to the boat. The Frenchman, after recovering himself a little, perceived that most of the robbers were his runaway slaves; but they themselves told him so, and reminded him of his former cruelties, and threatened to burn his house. This proposal, however, was overruled by the person

who commanded the marauders ; all of whom soon after embarked quietly with their plunder, and rowed down the river safe from molestation. It appeared that the crew of a pirate-vessel had some time before landed on the coast, near the Frenchman's plantation, to get a supply of water, and that one of his slaves had fallen in with them, and had been induced to join their party. He had afterwards visited his former associates, and persuaded them to abandon their master, that they might not only escape his tyranny, but eventually return and take their revenge, by committing the outrage now described.

A pirate-vessel once attacked a sloop, the crew of which made violent and unexpected resistance ; but it proved unavailing, and she was soon boarded by her assailants, who shewed themselves inclined to proceed to extremities of every kind. The master of the sloop unfortunately had his wife with him. She remained below decks, while her husband stood by the gangway, and endeavoured to prevent the negroes from descending to the cabin ; how-

ever, he was almost immediately knocked down and murdered. The female saw this, and, aware that she now had no one to protect her, rushed, in a state of desperation, into the hold, which communicated with the cabin by a small door in the bulk-heads. Her first impulse was, to open a large empty chest that had once held wine, and to take refuge in it, and to close the lid, in which there happened to be a chink large enough to admit air. Here she lay in total darkness, scarcely daring to breathe, and listening with intense anxiety to the noises made by the people above. She heard enough to convince her that the work of death was going on, and that the pirates had murdered many of the ship's crew. Comparative quietness soon succeeded, and the hatch being removed, the negroes came down to the hold, and lifted up a variety of bales and boxes upon deck, and sent them on board their own vessel. Among other things they seized the chest in which she lay concealed, thinking doubtless that it contained bottled wine. Her terror was so great that she

would have discovered herself had not the suffocating closeness of her prison deprived her of the power of utterance. However, she felt herself lowered into a boat, and then swung on board the pirate-schooner, and eventually consigned to the hold along with other articles of plunder.

The pirates soon got under weigh, and were so busy in attending to the navigation of their vessel, that night came on without their examining any of their new booty. The lady was in the meantime contemplating the horrors of her situation, and deliberating what she ought to do. If she remained in concealment she would soon perish of hunger, and if she discovered herself she would be a victim to the insults and brutality of the negroes. She at length determined to pursue a middle course, and to seek an opportunity of disclosing herself to the pirate-captain when none of the seamen were present. She had some hopes of accomplishing this; for she naturally enough supposed that the hold of the schooner communicated with the cabin in the same way as in her husband's vessel. When

she supposed, from the surrounding stillness, that midnight was approaching, she liberated herself from her wooden prison. Total darkness prevailed, except near a chink through which a faint light appeared. She groped her way to the spot, and found that her guiding beacon was the keyhole of the door of which she was in search. It yielded to her hand, and afforded access to the cabin, as she expected. On passing forwards she found the pirate-chief asleep on a couch, with a lamp on a table beside him. Having secured the gangway door, she awaked him as gently as possible; but the moment he cast his eyes upon her he started up, uttered a cry of fear, and endeavoured to rush out of the cabin. She fell at his feet, and explained quickly who she was, and how she had been brought on board his vessel, and implored his protection. The negro, on recovering from his first alarm, listened attentively to what she said, and then, after a little hesitation, told her that he had not sufficient control over his men to prevent them from insulting her, and that her only security

lay in her continuing in her former concealment till she found an opportunity of leaving the schooner. He promised to supply her with food during her imprisonment, and to put her on shore, or on board some vessel, as soon as he found it possible to do so. He now conducted her to the hold, and, having placed the chest in a spot less likely to be disturbed than any other, left her, and shortly returned with food and wine. The female remained two days in this state, undiscovered by the crew, and regularly visited by the captain, who supplied her abundantly with the necessaries of life. She had the liberty of moving about the hold all night, but was obliged to take refuge in her prison during the day, every place between decks being then exposed to the visits of the negroes. At length the pirate came in sight of a Spanish coasting-boat; and, having made her heave to, he at once brought his female passenger on deck, to the indescribable astonishment of his people, and embarked her without opposition in the stranger vessel, to the master of which he gave some

money, with directions that their charge should be put on shore the moment they got into port. The Spanish seamen fulfilled these injunctions, by landing the lady at Havana next morning. This story I heard related, much more circumstantially than has now been done, at a boarding-house in Philadelphia.

One of the most remarkable things in the Bahama seas is the clearness and shallowness of the water. In some places the depth at ebb-tide does not exceed seven feet; but even though it approaches to forty, the bottom and all the objects scattered upon it can be distinctly seen. I used often to watch the fishes sporting among the sea-weed and rocks beneath me, or trace the ramifications of the coral that grew abundantly everywhere. I could discern the beautiful convoluted shell-fish of the tropics reposing in their native deeps, and view the barracuta darting like a blue meteor through the clear expanse of ocean around it. Sometimes a shark would follow our vessel for several hours together; at one time swimming rapidly round her in quest

of prey, and at another lurking under the keel till something was thrown overboard. He would then rush from his place of concealment, and seize the object, whatever it might be. We are told that sharks can scent their food a great way off; but I am inclined to doubt this; for I have usually been able to bring them to the surface of the water by throwing out a chip of wood, or any other floating body. I have even seen them seize and turn over a ship's block, or a piece of rope, several times before they would abandon it; which shews that they cannot distinguish whether or not an object is fit for prey with coming into actual contact with it.

On the afternoon of the ninth day of our voyage we entered Guibava harbour, and to our astonishment received a salute from the fort; however, it was not a very friendly one; for we heard a ball hissing through the air a little way above our heads. Our captain having forgot to display the American flag while coming into port, the Spaniards, who are very strict in ex-

acting the observance of pieces of etiquette of this kind, had thought proper to testify their displeasure by forcing a shot over us.

Guibava harbour is a beautiful semicircular inlet, surrounded with sloping banks covered with trees. I was charmed with it; for any spot that is clad in the livery of nature looks delightful after one has been a few days at sea. We seemed to have cast anchor in a small lake, for there was no appearance of a sandy beach any where, and herbage grew close to the water's edge. Several small vessels lay at anchor around us, and the last glow of the setting sun fell upon a cottage and garden that crowned an eminence on one side of the bay; while a few straggling rays darted into a valley close by, and shewed a boy driving some cattle before him. The noise of the wind among the trees swelled softly and mildly upon the ear, and a rich woodland vegetable perfume impregnated every little breeze. The scene had nothing tropical in its character, and I for a moment

forgot that I was in Cuba, and probably would have addressed the people on shore in English had I been within reach of them.

Soon after sunset I embarked with my American acquaintance in a boat, and proceeded to his plantation, which lay upon the banks of a river that disembogued into Guibava harbour. He had very recently received a grant of land from the Cuba government, and was beginning to bring it under cultivation. I therefore now enjoyed an opportunity of observing the plan of operations pursued by a new settler in the West Indies, which was the more interesting, from my having a few months before been a spectator of the same sort of thing in the wilds of North America.

On landing we climbed up a steep bank, on the top of which was a low square building. A man with a torch stood at the door, and saluted my friend, who addressed him by the title of Don Juan, and inquired if the estate was in a flourishing condition. The Don gave a favourable reply, and conducted us into the apartment,

in the middle of which was a small table with a glimmering lamp upon it, and some glasses and segars. There were benches in different parts of the room, occupied by Spaniards half asleep. Two miserable-looking negroes stood trembling in one corner, and chests, bales, and bags, lay in disorder everywhere. The figure of Don Juan, who proved to be the overseer of the plantation, harmonized well with the medley of wretchedness around him. His face expressed an epitome of villany, and was half covered with a brown beard: his dress was coarse and dirty, and he wore an immense cutlass by his side, and carried a whip under his arm. After a little time supper was brought in, and the Don proceeded to give his employer an account of all that had occurred on the estate during his absence. He related minutely the history of every individual negro, described his character and propensities, enumerated the times he had been punished, and estimated his value in Spanish dollars. All this was detailed and listened to with equal indifference; and the overseer hav-

ing concluded his statement, took the lamp from the table and left the apartment, followed by his master. I accompanied them to a long narrow building like a stable, which formed the habitation of the slaves. Don Juan, having taken a key from his girdle, unlocked the door. On entering we saw ten or twelve blacks laying on bundles of Indian corn-leaves, some asleep, and some apparently pretending to be so. Their owner inspected them all, and asked a few questions of several of them, and then returned to the mansion-house, leaving the overseer to lock the door behind him.

Next morning I saw the negroes at work on the estate. They were cutting down the brush-wood and long grass that covered most of the soil, which seemed extremely rich and productive. Several fields of tobacco and Indian corn surrounded the house, but I saw no sugar-cane any where. The *tout-ensemble* of the American's establishment was not calculated to set tropical emigration in a pleasing light, though he expressed himself highly satisfied with his

prospects, and talked of making a fortune in seven years.

Several of his countrymen had settled near him, and had made greater progress in cultivation. They expected to be able to clear the whole expenses of their estates, including the original purchase-money for their negroes and the fees to government, from the sale of three crops of tobacco alone, for which there is a constant, though fluctuating market at Havana, five hundred miles distant. All foreign settlers in Cuba are obliged to vow adherence to the Catholic church, and to acknowledge its doctrines; but the people who have hitherto emigrated to the island are not sufficiently scrupulous about religious matters to object to taking this oath, though they all call themselves Protestants.

The progress of cultivation is a less pleasing spectacle in the West Indies than in any other country, because the individuals who are directly engaged in promoting it derive no advantage from their labours. The comfort and happiness

of a negro do not depend on the thriving condition of his master's estate. He is provided with the necessaries of life, and with nothing more, whether the scene of his daily toils be the tangled forest or the luxuriant corn-field ; and the termination of his labours has as little connexion with abundant crops and fine markets as with seasons of famine and decaying trade.

I am inclined, however, to believe, that slavery is less painful to the negroes than is usually supposed. Those who have recently been imported may feel very miserable at first, but they appear soon to get reconciled to their fate, and to lose all recollection of their homes and native country. But they owe this contentedness, not to the comforts of their situation, or to the humanity of their owners, but to that pitiable degree of debasement and degradation that always attends a state of involuntary servitude. The generality of plantation-negroes stand so low in the scale of intelligent beings, that it is impossible to feel much commiseration for them, even when ill treated, or to view them

without disgust. House-slaves are usually superior in quickness and capacity, in consequence, I suppose, of their intercourse with Europeans ; but still their powers of understanding and of memory appear to be very limited.

The unresisting submissiveness of the Africans to punishment, insult, and oppression, both individually and collectively, would be astonishing, and would seem to prove that they were actually as much below the standard of humanity as some people wish to sink them, did not one know that personal slavery reduces men of all countries to nearly the same grade. A stranger in Cuba, on first witnessing the treatment that negroes often receive, wonders that sudden resentment does not hurry them on to an attempt at retaliation, or to some act of violence. He feels astonished that the idea of subsequent punishment, or even of death, should have any restraining influence over a man smarting under a deadly insult or intolerable outrage ; but it actually has with negroes, or at least they are too debased and blunted in their perceptions to

feel the sting of tyranny with any acuteness. I never saw nor heard an instance of a slave resenting cruel treatment at the moment of its being inflicted. In Havana I have seen negroes kicked off the pavement because they accidentally took the wall of a Spaniard. I have seen them knocked down in the streets by Calaseros, because their waggons happened to be in the way of the latter. I have seen knives and forks thrown at them by the inmates of a boarding-house, and I have seen a father make his child violently kick the face of his black attendant ; but in all these cases the African seemed perfectly calm and resigned. The negroes in Cuba come to be flogged whenever they are called, and then walk away writhing with pain, and perhaps sobbing bitterly, but with countenances “ more in sorrow than in anger.” However, slavery forms the key to all this. M. Salamè, in his Narrative of the Expedition to Algiers under Lord Exmouth, gives an account of the condition of the Christian captives whom he saw there, and who were liberated after the down-

fall of the place. They appear to have been in a state of degradation even beyond what I have mentioned as existing among Africans in the West Indies; and his descriptions of their abjectness and submission apply almost *verbatim* to scenes which I had daily opportunities of witnessing while in the island of Cuba.

During part of my residence there I lived in a small house, about one mile from Havana, and close to a stone-quarry, in which negro criminals were condemned to labour, some for a limited number of years, and some for life. I used frequently to observe these wretches, who exhibited the darkest picture of human debasement I had ever beheld. They were driven out to work every morning at sunrise, and had two overseers with immense whips in constant attendance upon them. The unceasing strokes of their pickaxes, and the frequent clank of the lash, echoed among the cliffs till twilight, when they were marched home, and ranged in front of a long wooden building, which formed their nocturnal prison. Each man now had a large

mass of dough, made of the flour of Indian corn, served out to him as his allowance of provisions; and the delight and avidity which they universally manifested on receiving this coarse fare accorded well with the misery of their external appearance. Some wore fetters on their legs, and the limbs of others exhibited those distortions and wastings that arise from the constant galling of iron. Few had almost any clothing; but their skins were covered with mud and scorched into wrinkles, and insensible to every thing but the whip. However, many of these men actually danced and sung in the evenings; and I have heard the clashing of their fetters mingling with the harsh tones of their native language, without intermission, till the keepers locked them up for the night.

It is in the Northern States of America that negroes appear to greatest advantage, as civilized beings and as members of society. Most of them there enjoy perfect freedom, and gain their livelihood by pursuing some trade or mechanical occupation. They are quiet, industrious,

and inoffensive persons; and the Americans only complain that they have of late become rather insolent and assuming, and that they are doing all in their power to amalgamate themselves with white people. In the towns of New York and Philadelphia there are many negroes, whose characters, industry, and mode of life, sufficiently vindicate their countrymen from that stigma of utter incapacity and incorrigibleness which the champions of the slave-trade are anxious to affix to them all without exception.

In the morning my American acquaintance told me that he was going to Holguin, a small town twenty miles distant, and said that I had better proceed there also, as the sloop would not sail for New Providence for several days. I willingly assented to this, and set out after breakfast, mounted on a mule, and accompanied by a party of muleteers. The roads were so bad that our cattle never went faster than a walk; however, I forget the irksome slowness of our progress, in observing the changeful scenery of the country through which we passed.

At first we were embowered in thick woods, and surrounded with the utmost luxuriance of vegetation. The verdure of the trees was indescribably rich and dazzling, and the combination of perfumes, breathed forth by different herbs and fruits, had something oppressive and intoxicating in it. Green paroquets, and beautiful birds of various kinds, sported among the boughs over-head, and fanned their wings in the brilliant sunshine; and when they sat at rest among the flickering leaves, it was difficult to distinguish them from the fruit that hung glowing around them. The road was in many places strewn with oranges and limes, which, when crushed and trampled upon by our mules, yielded a delicious fragrance, and bathed their feet in odoriferous juice. The deep sonorous hum of myriads of insects proceeded from the woods, and the glittering of innumerable burnished wings among their recesses shewed a teemful abundance of animal life and activity. The elements of productiveness seemed to exist everywhere in magnificent profusion. The

very skies exhibited a gorgeousness unknown except in the tropics. Distinct layers of immense fiery clouds floated over each other, and underwent continual changes of shape and position, sometimes commingling, sometimes disuniting, and sometimes intertwining together their vast serpentine convolutions into gloomy, gigantic, and wrathful forms, which, at intervals, emitted low growls of thunder. At last a torrent of rain burst forth, and the sparkling drops flashed obliquely through the air, and seemed to pierce the earth like brilliant darts. When the shower, which was of short duration, ceased, the ground breathed forth clouds of vapour, the plants appeared of a more vivid green, and nature looked as if she had suddenly acquired an increase of vigour and brightness.

This kind of scenery continued for several miles. We then entered a part of the country which was wild and rocky, and intersected with deep ravines. Beautiful and transparent little rivulets flowed along the bottom of these, and their steep sides were covered with brushwood,

through which narrow paths, worn in the solid rock by the continual passing and repassing of mules, served to conduct the traveller to the most fordable part of the streams below. When we had emerged from one glen of this description we immediately saw another of the same kind before us ; and our journey consisted of a series of ascents and descents, none of which exhibited variety or novelty enough to compensate for the fatigue attendant upon making them.

At length the muleteers dismounted, and seated themselves on the ground in a circle, while one of their number opened a bundle full of bread, dried meat, and eggs, and distributed its contents among his comrades. Most of the party were stout, dark-complexioned men, with cutlasses at their sides, and so silent and austere in their demeanour, that I thought they bore little resemblance to the jolly open-hearted muleteers described in *Don Quixote* and *Gil Blas* ; but, perhaps, they would have been more talkative had their repast been seasoned by a few flasks of Spanish wine ; for I was rather as-

tonished to observe that they were unprovided with liquor of any kind.

They made a hurried meal, and we again proceeded on our journey, and soon entered a tract of country which was different from any we had yet passed through. Our road lay among ridges of small hills of a conical form, and quite barren. They had not a tree or shrub upon them; however, they were neither rocky nor rugged, but presented that softness of outline and rotundity of form, which are usually characteristic of a wooded country and of a fertile soil. These hills extended to the horizon in every direction, and had a most uninteresting appearance, their sides being unenlivened by people, or horses, or cattle. The sun set while we were among them, and we performed the last three miles of our journey in darkness.

The muleteers had generously mounted me on their worst mule, which was so dull and weak that I could hardly keep in sight of my guides. I rode without saddle or bridle, the sub-

stitutes for these being a folded piece of mat and a rope-halter. Frequently our path lay through dark thickets; and at these times I was often nearly dragged from the animal's back by the tangled brushwood and projected branches, which the obscurity of the night prevented me from seeing and avoiding. My mule had a trick of falling upon its knees when going down a declivity, and I was twice pitched over its head upon the hard rock. On these occasions, the muleteer who rode near me did not dismount and offer assistance, but merely stopped, and coolly addressed some soothing expressions to the animal from which I had been thrown. It was impossible not to feel irritated at his indifference; but unhappily my knowledge of the Spanish language was too limited to enable me to express my resentment, which consequently recoiled upon myself, and rendered these accidents doubly annoying.

The town of Holguin, which I reached late in the evening, is a miserable decaying place, surrounded by a barren uncultivated country. It

enjoys considerable trade with the Bahama Islands through the medium of Guibara harbour. But this port is rather disadvantageously situated, its distance from Holguin being thirty miles, twenty-two of which are land-carriage. Holguin is so badly supplied with provisions, that its inhabitants cannot always procure the common necessities of life in sufficient quantity. I wished to board for a few days in a French house there; but they at first objected, on the ground that they were often unable to provide even a tolerable dinner for themselves.

Several American merchants reside at Holguin; and a number of their countrymen, and a few English people, have purchased lands near Guibara harbour, and are converting them into sugar, coffee, and tobacco estates, which will soon become highly profitable and productive. The richness of the soil in Cuba, the comparatively low price of negroes there, and the fine market which Havana affords, will ensure to these planters a degree of prosperity at present unknown to their neighbours in Jamaica,—the

difficulties of the latter arising from a total want of all the advantages enjoyed by the former. The Cubans being too indolent and unambitious to cultivate the noble island which they inhabit, foreigners are beginning to do so for them. However, should the English or Americans secure a footing in the country, the Spaniards will perhaps hereafter find some difficulty in getting rid of them. A government can easily dislodge and force away the foreign merchants who reside within its territories ; but the agriculturists and landed proprietors, being in a manner rooted in the soil, resist any attempts that are made to remove them, and in general eventually become naturalized, although they may all along have been treated as exotics.

While at Holguin I visited the governor of the place. On going to his house I was ushered into a kind of veranda, very shabbily furnished, and an old man, wearing a chintz bed-gown instead of a coat, came out to receive me. This was his Excellency. He evidently had not shaved himself for two days, and looked so

mean and so slovenly as to appear an object of commiseration rather than of respect. The Spaniards in Cuba, both male and female, are extremely careless about personal neatness, except on particular occasions. Even in Havana it is rare to see a well-dressed man; and when you do, you cannot approach within three yards of him without being half suffocated with the smell of segars or brandy-punch. The women usually continue in dishabille all day; and any person who takes the trouble of looking into the houses through their trellised windows, will see their female inmates habited in dressing-gowns, and without shoes or stockings, lying on sofas, or swinging themselves in cots suspended from the ceiling; but in the evening he will meet the same individuals on the Alamoda, or at a public ball, and find them transformed into shewy, elegant, well-dressed belles.

While at Holguin, I made a little excursion into the neighbouring country. I set out in the morning accompanied by a muleteer, and arranged that I should rest and refresh at his

cottage during the day, and return home before sunset. After I had travelled about three miles the country became very beautiful, and on reaching my conductor's house, I found myself encompassed by all the wild and luxuriant productions of the tropics.

The muleteer's abode shewed how little of the artificial human nature requires under the torrid zone. It consisted merely of a conical thatched roof, supported upon four strong poles about six feet high. One side was enclosed by a sort of wall of banana-leaves, but the other three were quite open, and consequently the house had no doors or windows. A few yards off, a small close shed, made of dry sugar-canes, served the purpose of a sleeping apartment. These rustic habitations were occupied by the muleteer, his wife, and three children. A garden full of West India vegetables, and several acres of Indian corn, extended behind the house, and formed the domain of its owner, who was a Cuban peasant of the better class.

Having rested a little while beneath his

humble roof, I strolled out, and took the first path that presented itself. I soon got imbowered among lime-trees loaded with fruit, and continued to walk under their delightful shade till I found myself on the side of a small river. The current was rapid, and the water beautifully transparent ; and the trees that grew on each bank formed an arcade overhead, through which a few rays of the sun penetrated, and flickered upon the clear expanse of stream below. A dry bank of gravel, stretching along its edge, invited me to follow its course, which I did for, I suppose, nearly a mile, without meeting with any obstruction. At length I was arrested by observing a small cultivated spot a few yards off, with a mean-looking hut in the middle of it. I approached, and on pushing open the door of the hovel, saw, to my astonishment, an old negro woman lying on the floor. Her hair was very long, and of a silver-grey ; her countenance had shrunk into folds of skin, and her limbs were withered and emaciated. Several earthen pots stood around her, and feathers, horses'-teeth, sea-shells, and parts of birds,

&c. hung in bundles on the walls of her hut. I addressed her in Spanish, asking what she did there ; and she made some answer that I did not understand, in a horrible jargon that evidently was intended for English. I attempted to continue the conversation, but without success ; for neither of us could discover what the other meant ; and I was at length on the point of departing, when I heard footsteps near me. A European carrying a gun, and followed by two negroes, appeared at a little distance, and I remained till the party approached. Its leader accosted me in English, and said that he was the overseer of a neighbouring plantation, and that he was in search of two runaway slaves, whose flight and place of concealment, he believed, were known to the old negress in the hut. " She is what is called an Obi woman," continued he, " and is feared and respected, on account of her powers of enchantment, by all her race, and gains a subsistence by selling charms and foretelling future events."

We now entered the hut ; but the negroes

remained without, evidently in a state of perturbation. The overseer addressed the old sorceress in a language which was unknown to me, and they held a long conversation together, in the course of which there seemed to be many threatenings on his part, and much anger and impatience on hers. At length she rose from the ground with apparent difficulty, and, seizing a large staff, walked out of the hovel. The overseer now told me, that she had acknowledged being acquainted with the hiding-place of the fugitives, and had undertaken for a bribe to shew it him. We all followed her, and I was astonished at the vigour and rapidity with which she proceeded.

Having walked about half a mile, we came to the side of a pretty deep ravine covered with brushwood. Our conductress pointed to the bottom of this with her staff, and then turned round as if to hasten homeward; but the overseer seized her arm, and ordered one of the negroes to detain her in custody, while he and his other attendant searched the ravine. The

fellow was about to obey ; but she said something to him in her own language, and he instantly started back in terror, and trembled violently. His companion was affected in the same way ; and we perceived that the old hag had threatened to set the Obi for them if they dared to molest her. The overseer repeated his commands with assurances of speedy severe punishment ; but the men paid no regard to him, and walked backwards and forwards, clasping their hands, and muttering something with a very rapid utterance. The negress sat on the ground, and maintained a sullen silence.

Things were in this state when we heard the rustling of boughs in the bottom of the ravine, and on looking down, detected two persons among the brushwood. The overseer instantly called to them to yield themselves up, and they ascended the steep apparently without hesitation, and were soon close beside him. He was then a little astonished to perceive that they were not the fugitives of whom he was in search, but

slaves belonging to an estate at some distance, and employed in cutting firewood.

The old woman had, in the morning, seen these slaves going to work, and being questioned by the overseer about two runaway negroes, had asserted that they were the individuals about whom he was inquiring, and had offered, in the hope of an immediate reward, to conduct him to their retreat. Her anxiety to return home was at once explained by the negroes declaring that she knew them well; for it had occurred to her that they would, on recognising her, have at once informed the overseer of the deception that had been practised upon him.

The sorceress was immediately dismissed. She bent her way homewards full of wrath and disappointment; and the overseer, having conducted me by a short path to the bank of the river, took leave, resolving to abandon any further pursuit of the fugitives till the ensuing day.

When I reached the muleteer's cottage, the evening was too far advanced to admit of my

returning to Holguin till next morning. My host made a bed of mats for me on the floor, and I spent the night, as it were, in the open air, the house having no walls. I was awakened at sunrise by a little boy, who brought me a large cup of very excellent coffee. This is a luxury in which no person in Cuba thinks himself too poor to indulge, the meanest peasant taking coffee when he gets out of bed, and again, two or three hours afterwards, at breakfast.

I returned to Holguin in the course of the day, and on the succeeding morning set out for Guibara harbour, having learned that the sloop was ready to pursue her voyage. However, on going on board, I found that she would not leave port till the next night, and as the time hung rather heavy, I accepted an invitation from the master of a schooner that lay near us to pay him a visit, and see his collection of shells.

When the evening was pretty far advanced he conducted me to the cabin, which was almost full of large packages, and pointing out where

I was to sleep, left me alone. I felt a heavy suffocating smell, but did not think of examining the contents of the bales, and immediately went to bed. Soon afterwards I was harassed by wild and frightful dreams, and suddenly awakened about midnight bathed in a cold dew, and totally unable to speak or move. However, I knew perfectly where I was, and recollected every thing that had occurred the preceding day; only I could not make any bodily effort whatever, and tried in vain to get up, or even to change my position. The watch on deck struck four bells, and I counted them, though it seemed to me that I did not hear the beats, but received the vibrations through my body. About this time a seaman came into the cabin with a light, and carried away an hour-glass that hung upon a nail, without observing me, though I made several efforts to attract his attention. Shortly after a pane in the skylight was broken by accident, and I saw the fragments of glass drop on the floor. These circumstances actually occurred, as I found on

inquiry next day ; and I mention them to prove, that the sensations I describe were realities, and not the offspring of perturbed dreams. My inability to move was not accompanied with pain or uneasiness, but I felt as if the principle of life had entirely departed from my frame. At length I became totally insensible, and continued so till an increase of the wind made the sea a little rough, which caused the vessel to roll. The motion, I suppose, had the effect of awakening me from my trance, and I contrived, somehow or other, to get up and go upon deck. My memory was totally lost for about a quarter of an hour, and I had no ideas connected with any thing that was not present before me. I knew that I was in a ship, but nothing more. While in this state I observed a man drawing water from the sea in buckets, and requested him to pour one upon my head. After some hesitation he did so, and all my faculties were immediately restored, and I acquired a most vivid recollection of a vast variety of ideas and events which appeared to have passed through my mind, and

occupied me during the time of my supposed insensibility.

All this singular constitutional derangement had arisen from a copious inhalation of the fumes of tobacco; for, on examining the cabin, I found that the piles of packages there consisted of that narcotic plant, and that quantities of it lay even under my bed,—in short, that the sloop contained almost nothing else.

I should not have been so particular in mentioning these circumstances, had I not heard something analogous to them from a German oculist whom I met with in Havana. This old man, who was altogether a very singular character, told me that the digitalis or foxglove, the belladonna or nightshade, and several other plants of a similar kind, possessed peculiar properties, which were not generally known even by the medical profession. When administered, he said, in a certain way, they could be made to act so powerfully and directly as sedatives, as to destroy all sensibility and voluntary motion, without affecting the animal life, or impeding

its necessary and healthy actions and functions ; but with this remarkable peculiarity, that the mind or soul did not participate in the comatoseness which affected its mortal tenement, but was more than usually active and excursive. On these occasions, however, the individual to whom it belonged had no perception of any thing of the kind. His body enjoyed an animal existence, as it were, without sensation, and nothing more. But when the effect of the narcotic was dispelled, either by counter-agents or by time, he recovered from his lethargy, and active life, memory, will, and intelligence, returned, with a perfect knowledge of all the operations and employment which his mind had gone through, from the moment of his losing his perceptions to that of his reviving and of their being restored.

The German explained all this in the following way :—Life and the soul, he said, are separate essences, though intimately connected together, and when the powers of the former have been enfeebled to a certain degree, the latter

disengages itself from the body, and continues its agency unlimited and unembarrassed by the encumbrance of corporeal matter. However, on the animal functions beginning to recover their natural vigour, their immortal inmate is attracted back by a peculiar sympathy to its earthly tenement, and the human being which they jointly compose awakes to intelligence, and suddenly recollects all the ideas that have passed through his mind during the period of his suspended animation. These my friend described as often being vivid, original, and marvellous beyond description, and such as entirely exceeded the conceptions of man in his natural state of existence. After descanting a considerable time upon the subject, he related the following story in illustration of it :—

While in Germany he had resided some months in a town which was the seat of one of the minor universities. Being at that time rather poor, he engaged apartments in a lonely house, a considerable way beyond the suburbs. Its occupants, besides himself, were an old man

and his wife, to whom it belonged, and a person of the name of Meildenvold, who was studying medicine. He lived in a very retired and singular way. However, as Engel and he boarded as well as lodged with their landlord, a certain degree of intimacy soon took place between them. Engel quickly discovered that his companion was no common character. In him reserved manners and a melancholy deportment were combined with a wildness and extravagance of ideas that sometimes almost approximated to madness. His conversation was abrupt, and had nothing of common-place ; for he never talked except when excited to do so by some emotion ; and he often made dark allusions, and expressed thoughts and opinions of such a mysterious and startling nature, that they seemed almost super-human. He evidently avoided society as much as possible, never going into town except to attend the lectures, and always returning home as soon as they were over.

In addition to his apartments in the house, he occasionally occupied a small detached build-

ing about twenty yards off. He kept the key of this place himself, and never allowed any one to enter its walls; within which he regularly shut himself at an early hour on a certain night every week, and remained in seclusion till the middle of the succeeding day. When he came forth he was always haggard, ghastly, and dejected; but, notwithstanding this, he never failed to commence writing very busily, and to continue doing so often for several hours together. He then seemed relieved, and resumed his usual habits and appearance, till the mysterious evening returned.

Engel's curiosity was excited; and the more so, as his companion shewed every disinclination to gratify it, and repelled his hints and inquiries in the most decided manner. He also felt an interest in the young man, who evidently was in a declining state of health and very unhappy. He had once too, when passing the building above described, caught a glimpse of its interior, and seen some objects of an extraordinary kind, among which was a board covered

with black cloth, and placed against the wall in a sloping direction, and clamped at its lower end, to prevent it from sliding forwards. There were also a large trough full of water, and a number of phials and some chemical apparatus.

Engel had one night continued reading to a later hour than usual: his host and hostess had both retired to rest, and every thing was quiet and solitary around him. On accidentally looking out, he observed a faint light glimmering in Meildenvold's secret apartment, and recollected that the young man's period of seclusion had commenced that evening. Engel, impelled by irresistible curiosity, resolved to ascertain how his friend was employed. He left his apartment, and proceeded cautiously towards the small building, though the darkness prevented any chance of his being discovered. On reaching it, he found that the windows were so high above the ground, that he could not raise himself sufficiently to see through them, without climbing up the walls. This he accomplished

with some difficulty, and at length obtained a view of the interior of the apartment. It was lighted by one lamp, which was hung from the roof, and the form of Meildenvold lay immediately under it, on the board already mentioned. He was habited in a white dressing-gown, and looked pale, stiff, and ghastly: his eyes, though only half closed, being dim and fixed in their sockets, Engel thought him dying or dead, and his first impulse was to force open the door and hasten to his assistance; but on observing things more attentively, he became almost convinced, from the state of the apartment and the position of Meildenvold, that his insensibility was the effect of design. He therefore continued to watch the body, which exhibited no symptoms of life, though the faint flickering of the lamp sometimes almost deceived him into the idea that it moved, and that the countenance began to acquire animation.

He waited half an hour, but still no change took place. He then descended to the ground, irresolute whether to remain any longer, or to

return home and call up his landlord, and make him break open the door, which was locked inside. But he reflected that he had no right to force himself into the private haunt of any one, even for a good purpose, and therefore sought his own apartment again, and went to bed—though not to sleep; for the death-like form of his friend occupied his mind constantly; and in the morning he got up, expecting to learn that Meildenvold was no longer in life. The day advanced to noon without his appearing; but this circumstance passed unnoticed by his host, because it had nothing unusual in it. Engel, however, was in a state of anxious trepidation, and at length determined to ascertain the fate of his friend by personal inquiry. On leaving his apartment, which opened into a large passage, he saw Meildenvold at one end of it, and started back, almost doubting the reality of the object before him. The young man hurried past without speaking, and entered his own chamber, and shut the door, though Engel called after him, and asked how he did.

Things went on as usual till the recurrence of Meildenvold's night of retirement, when he shut himself up in the same manner, and at the same hour, as formerly. Engel was desirous of knowing whether or not his friend would have another lethargic fit, and likewise of witnessing its commencement. He therefore went to the building as soon as the lateness of the hour enabled him to elude observation. He mounted the wall with a palpitating heart, and looked into the apartment. There was Meildenvold stretched out in the guise of death, and every thing around him in the same state as before. Engel gazed upon him a few moments, and then, from a sudden impulse, forced his way through the window, and leaped upon the floor, and advanced cautiously towards the body, fearful lest he should awake it from its torpid state; however, this seemed almost impossible; for the surface was cold, the pulsation of the heart scarcely perceptible, and the breathing very feeble and protracted.

Engel now observed that the window was

so high above the floor that he could not reach it, and make his egress in the same way as he had entered ; for the wall was too smooth to be climbed, and the apartment did not contain any piece of furniture upon which he could elevate himself. The door was locked inside, but the key had been removed. He found himself a prisoner, and strolled about the chamber in a most uncomfortable state of feeling. The midnight hour, the loneliness of the place, the mysterious condition of his friend, and the ghastly appearance of his body, as seen in the glimmering of a dim and unsteady light, excited an undefined awe and apprehension. He wished his friend would revive ; yet he almost feared to encounter him, conscious as he was of having acted the spy, and viewed him in a situation which he evidently desired should be a secret one.

But, in the midst of these reflections, Engel's attention was drawn to the lamp, which seemed on the point of going out. He stepped upon the edge of the platform, for the purpose of

trimming it; but, while doing so, the wick dropped into the oil, and the flame was instantaneously smothered. The darkness which succeeded was nearly total, and Engel remained fixed in the same spot for several minutes; but when his eyes became accustomed to the obscurity, he began to discern the platform and the white dress of Meildenvold. He seated himself in one end of the apartment, resolving to await patiently the issue of the adventure in which he had imprudently involved himself.

It was not till the lapse of three hours that Meildenvold began to give signs of returning sensation. Engel heard a succession of deep-drawn sighs, and soon after saw his friend raise himself up and lean his head upon his hand. He gradually gained an erect position, and staggered across the room, and the next moment a loud plunge took place. He arose from the bath in a state of complete resuscitation, and appeared, for the first time, to observe that the lamp was extinguished. Seizing a tinder-box, he struck a light, and Engel stood disclosed before

him. His astonishment was great ; but it soon yielded to displeasure, and he demanded angrily to what cause he owed such an untimely visit. Engel dealt sincerely with him, and related the origin and progress of his curiosity, and explained how he had gained admission into his private retreat. Meildenvold was appeased ; “ And yet,” said he, after a short silence, “ why should I refuse to explain the scene you have just witnessed, for it has nothing of guilt in it ? I am only sacrificing my health and life to intellectual enjoyments ; and health and life may surely be used at pleasure by one so disunited from the world as I am. You must know, that some years ago I accidentally discovered, that certain plants possess peculiar powers over the mind and body, emancipating, as it were, the former from the thralldom of the latter, and enabling those who know how to employ them to enter for a time into an existence almost purely spiritual. You see on that table various preparations of the hemlock, foxglove, deadly nightshade, and other narcotic herbs. I am in the habit of occasion-

ally using these to produce the effects I have described ; and you have recently seen me under their influence. It would be impossible now to go into particulars ; but you must be convinced, from what you observed while I lay on the platform, that my body was then the seat of the simplest powers of animal life only ; in short, that my spiritual part had fled, or, at least, had lost all sympathy or connexion whatever with my corporeal. At present I have no recollection of any thing during that period ; but a short time hence, a flood of ideas and images of the most vivid, wonderful, and tremendous description, will rush upon my mind, and bear evidence that I have partaken of a super-human state of existence. Many of these I have recorded in a book, with the contents of which I may perhaps one day make you acquainted. I will tell you more when we next meet ; but in the meantime I wish to be left alone."

He unlocked the door of the room, and Engel departed. In the course of a few days the latter did not fail to remind Meildenvold of

the promise he had made to disclose to him some of his mysterious secrets; however, he for a long time deferred doing so on various pretexts; at length he fixed a night for this purpose, and it was agreed that Engel should come to his apartment at a certain hour.

Engel had gone into town, as usual, on the morning of the preceding day, and some circumstances occurred to detain him there all night, and likewise till the afternoon of the evening on which he was to meet his friend. His business being finished, he hurried homewards, and arrived there just as the hour of rendezvous was tolled by the bell of a neighbouring cathedral. All was quiet in the mansion, and he hastened up stairs to Meildenvold's apartment, but found no one in it, nor any fire nor lights, nor any marks of its having recently been occupied. Engel, after his first sensations of astonishment had subsided, thought it possible that he might have misunderstood his friend, and that his own apartment was to be the place of meeting. He hastened there, but saw no traces of Meilden-

vold. He strolled from one room to the other in a state of perturbation and vague alarm, and at a loss what conclusions to form.

He at length determined to seek Meildenvold in his private apartment. He crossed the court-yard and gained it in an instant, and, on looking in, saw him extended, as usual, on the couch ; but, if possible, more pale and inanimate than on any other former occasion. Engel did not scruple to enter through the window ; but, on approaching and examining the body, he found, to his horror and astonishment, that life had entirely departed ! Those accustomed to the aspect of death never mistake it. The stiff limbs, sharp features, and frozen physiognomy of Meildenvold, shewed that life would never revisit his frame, and that he had fallen a victim to the influences of experimental philosophy, and to a love of imaginative existence. Engel had scarcely recovered from the shock of this discovery, when he began to look for the manuscripts which his friend had mentioned ; but his search proved ineffectual. He immediately

roused his host, and announced the death of his fellow-lodger. His remains were interred privately ; for he had left no clue that could lead to a knowledge of his relations or connexions, or even afford grounds for supposing that he had any.

But to return to myself. I went on board the schooner again in the course of the day, and we sailed for New Providence the same night with a fine wind. Our voyage was prosperous till within seventy miles of our port. The navigation of the Bahama banks is so intricate and difficult, that seamen, when on particular parts of them, usually cast anchor after sunset. We would have followed this practice likewise, had not the owner of the schooner, an obstinate testy old Spaniard, insisted that we should continue under sail all night. The captain unwillingly consented to this ; and the Don took the lead from one of the seamen, and heaved it himself, and directed the helmsman, but never told the soundings ; so that no one on board but himself knew what depth of water we had under us.

At last he suddenly gave up his post, and the person who succeeded him at once called out, "And a half one," shewing that the soundings were only nine feet. Our vessel drew eight ; so there was a good deal of alarm amongst us, and we immediately put about ; but all to no purpose ; for, after running in different directions for a considerable time, we found that the water did not deepen a single inch. We now determined to cast anchor, and to remain where we were till daybreak. Happily the calmness of the weather enabled us to lay quietly all night, and next morning we got under weigh ; but had scarcely run one knot before the keel began to rub upon the sand, and in a few minutes we were hard and fast aground. There was no land in sight ; but from the foretop we could discern detached shoals stretching on every side to the horizon ; those of sand being indicated by the bright green colour of the sea, and those of rock by irregular patches of blackness on its surface. Our prospects were rather alarming ; however, fortunately the tide happened to be on

the flow, and, by moving the ballast farther aft, and backing the sails, we succeeded in making the schooner float. We then wound our course among sand-banks during eight or nine hours, and at last succeeded in gaining the channel from which we had deviated.

Next morning we reached Nassan, which, like most other towns in the tropics, looks beautiful and picturesque when viewed from the sea ; but loses its interesting features on closer inspection. The island of New Providence, on which it is situated, is about twenty-seven miles long, and averages five in breadth ; however, it is little better than a rock, the soil being so poor and thin as scarcely to repay the expense of cultivation. There are coffee and sugar estates on various parts of it ; but these have of late yielded almost nothing, and would not now be tilled, had their owners any other way of employing their negroes.

The chief part of the population of New Providence is centered in the town of Nassan, which contains about four thousand inhabitants,

more than half of whom are negroes. The houses are built of wood, and, being placed at a distance from each other, extend over a large tract of ground. Nassau contains some neat public buildings, the finest of which is an elegant edifice that was lately erected for the accommodation of the governor, upon a hill that overlooks the town, the harbour, and a large part of the island. There are likewise excellent barracks, which are usually occupied by black troops, commanded by European officers.

New Providence derives much of its trade and consequence from a source that is quite peculiar to it. The navigation of the Bahama seas, which lay to the south and west of the island, is the most difficult and dangerous in the world, in consequence of the vast numbers of rocks, shoals, and sand-banks, that are to be found over their whole extent. Notwithstanding the vigilance and experience of the pilots, shipwrecks take place almost daily ; and as the vessels are either run aground, or bilged upon the rocks, they rarely are got off. It therefore becomes

necessary to unload and save their cargoes ; and a great many sloops and schooners belonging to New Providence are constantly employed in effecting this. These craft, which are called wreckers, cruise continually about the Bahama channels, in order to give assistance to any vessel in distress, and to carry her crew and lading into Nassau. As they draw very little water, and are manned by people who are perfectly acquainted with the navigation of the banks, they can afford relief to others without endangering themselves. To prevent any fraud being practised, a number of individuals, who compose what is called " The Chamber of Commerce," take cognizance of all the wreckers, and make their owners deliver into their custody the articles which they have saved from the stranded vessels. The master of each wrecker then receives five per cent. upon the goods he has brought into port, or more, according to the risk he has run in saving them, and the remainder is restored to the rightful proprietors.

New Providence is celebrated for pine-app-

ples and turtle, both of which are equally abundant and excellent; and the climate is as healthy and agreeable as any in the West Indies. Every evening the island is cooled by a delicious breeze, which combines the spicy fragrance of Cuba with the invigorating freshness of the Bahama ocean; but its balmy influences, delightful as I thought them after the heat and glare of a tropical day, never gave me half the pleasure that I received from the chilness of the first wintry Atlantic blast that visited our ship when on my voyage back to England.

END OF VOLUME I.

Lately published by the same Author,

SKETCHES of UPPER CANADA, Domestic, Local, and Characteristic ; to which are added, Practical Details for the Information of Emigrants of every Class, and some Recollections of the United States of America ; THIRD EDITION ; 8vo, 10s. 6d. boards.

"The style of this volume is singularly pleasing and unaffected. Without entering into the dryness of minute details, the author gives a more lively picture of the local and domestic peculiarities of Upper Canada, and of the American character in general, than is often to be accomplished by the most laborious delineations, divested of the charm and freshness which quick perceptions and warm benevolent feelings lend without effort to their subject. The author is an advocate of the cause of emigration, more especially for labouring people, and those of small fixed incomes ; and gives a variety of practical information, highly valuable to those who may be contented to expatriate themselves in the hope of bettering their condition. His descriptive powers are of a very superior kind. —Towards the conclusion of his interesting work, he presents us with some detached 'Recollections of the United States,' which are written in the same agreeable style as the pages which precede them ; and we close the volume equally grateful for the amusement and the information which it contains."—*New Monthly Magazine*.

"We have no hesitation in saying, that this is by far the best book which has ever been written by any British traveller on the subject of North America ; and we are quite sure it must not only attract a great deal of notice now, but retain its place hereafter, in every considerable library, both on this and on the other side of the Atlantic.—In short, it seems to contain a faithful and unaffected transcript of the workings of a mind alike active, reflective, fervid, imaginative, shrewd, upright, and generous. Mr Howison is entitled, by this effort alone, to claim no undistinguished rank among the English writers of his time ; but nobody, who reads his book, can doubt that it remains with himself to demand and obtain, by future exertions, such a high and eminent place, as it is probable his own modesty may have hitherto prevented him from conceiving to be within his reach."—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

"The present work of Mr Howison is, we think, candid and impartial. He enters on his subject apparently without any prepossessions, and he describes fairly, and without disguise, the system of life and manners which his journey through the newly-settled parts of Canada brought under his view. His opportunities for observation were excellent. He spent, he informs us, two years and a half in Upper Canada, residing among the different settlers, considering their plans, and surveying their habits and modes of life. He afterwards visited the United States, and the present small volume will be found to comprehend the various information collected in the course of his journey."—*New Edinburgh Review*.

"We have not lately met with a more entertaining and able work of the sort, than 'Sketches of Upper Canada, by John Howison, Esq.' This gentleman appears to be of Scotch extraction, and possesses much of the shrewd and clever character of his nation. His descriptions of the wild and picturesque territories through which he passed are uncommonly characteristic and vivid,—he appears to have a happy talent in catching the peculiarities of manner and language of the people, the details of which will afford no small amusement to his readers."—*Monthly Magazine*.

"The principal value of this book arises from the interior and domestic views given in it of the life of an emigrant, when once fairly set down among the woods of Upper Canada. We see here more of the manners, the occupations, the hardships, and the comforts of that class of men, than we have ever met with any where else ; set forth, too, in plain agreeable language, and without any perceptible bias which could mislead the author's judgment."—*British Critic*.

"We have no where met with a more useful and agreeable volume on transatlantic circumstances than Mr Howison has here offered to the public. It has observation, variety, impartiality, and good sense to recommend it: the author is no builder of systems which require the conversion of a circle into a square to render feasible, but tells us honestly what he saw, and diversifies his narrative with so much of personal adventure and local painting, as to unite information with entertainment in a manner more skilful than has usually been shown by writers on American subjects."—*Literary Gazette*.

"This work is written in an interesting style, and has greater claims to confidence than any thing which has recently appeared on the subject.—Mr Howison remained nearly two years and a half in Upper Canada: he traversed its whole extent from Montreal to Lake St Clair, visited almost every settlement in it, and spent his time in the houses and in the society of the settlers.—He possesses a cultivated mind, fine taste, and a poetical fancy.—He has an eye for whatever is fine in scenery, and dilates with enthusiasm on the magnificent objects which the forests, lakes, and cataracts of the Canadian solitude present.—It must be interesting to know, how an Englishman, well educated, and of cultivated taste and habits, would feel in Canadian society."—*Scotsman*.

"—Of all the writers who have hitherto undertaken an account of our transatlantic possessions, Mr Howison is the most minute, and, we believe, as well-informed and as accurate as any that have preceded him."—*Literary Chronicle*.

"Mr Howison describes the progress of emigration to Upper Canada, the expenses of the voyage, the plans to be adopted on arriving there, the different modes of settling, the expense of labour, the price of land and its produce, &c. He concludes by strongly recommending Upper Canada to emigrants, and particularly to poor people; as the expense of the voyage is not much, and the encouragement given to labour considerable. The people in Upper Canada live much better than persons of a similar class in Britain.—Although we spoke very favourably of Mr Howison's work in our first notice, yet we confess it has still improved on acquaintance; and we hesitate not to pronounce it one of the most interesting and most entertaining works we have seen on the subject of America."—*Literary Chronicle*, No 132.

"This is a very useful and exceedingly amusing volume. Its pretensions are modest—promising only to give the author's personal experiences;—those, however, are not only supplied with great candour and discrimination, but extracted by active observation of men and things, and conveyed in an unprejudiced and sprightly style—abounding with strong facts illustrative of the condition of the people, among whom the writer passed two years and a half.—Mr Howison has written very much with a view to the information required by emigrants."—*Examiner*.

"This work is the production of a person who has lately spent a considerable portion of his time in the very heart of one of those countries towards which the emigrants of this land are now crowding, and who seems to have had both the opportunity and the capacity of forming a correct estimate of the advantages and disadvantages which that country presents. He has fairly stated the inconveniences to which every settler must at first be subject.—During this journey he had of course to traverse those magnificent woods with which the country is covered; and it is gratifying to find, that he had the taste to feel the majestic solemnity of such a journey, and powers of description such as to enable him to communicate impressions with effect to his readers."—*Edinburgh Magazine*.

"The volume before us contains a good deal of accurate and instructive information, which cannot fail to be interesting to those who meditate emigration; and is particularly adapted for the guidance of those classes who are most likely to be tempted to seek an asylum in these settlements, the day-labourer, or the man of small income and increasing family. Mr Howison passed two years and a half in Upper Canada; and whatever he communicates is derived from personal inquiry and observation, and is obviously quite candid and impartial, and free from the exaggeration and flattering colouring of the interested land-jobbing speculator.—His descriptions of the wild and picturesque scenery of the wilderness he traversed are given with very considerable spirit and effect."—*Edinburgh Review*.

